

Femme Mirror

Winter 1992



Linda and Cynthia Phillips

The Femme Mirror

Winter 1992

Highlights From This Issue

- 5 Terminology for Crossdressing Community.....Virginia Prince
- 6 - 17 **Special Section on Secondary Transsexualism**
- The All American Crossdresser - A Vanishing Breed.....Shirley Kay
- Pressure Equals The Force Divided By The Area.....Patricia Kennedy
- A Joint Article.....Cynthia and Linda Phillips
- An Open Letter to the Gender Community.....Julie Freeman
- A Question of Balance.....Donna Mobley
- To Save A Family.....Frances and Jane Ellen Fairfax
- Boys R Us.....Susan
- 18 - 29 Holiday En Femme
- 30 Letters To The Editor
- 39 Reflections Brenda Thomas
- 40 Chapter News
- 42 How To Start A Wives And Partners Program.....Cynthia Phillips

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Carol Beecroft Shares Some Thoughts.

Executive Director's Page

Hello to all our great Tri-Ess sisters - from the gals who work here in Tulare -for you!

It's never a moment's peace here. There is always something to work on - paper work all around us. I did manage to get the Clarion out (our first issue) to leaders and am working on the January issue. I hope that all leaders will benefit from reading this helpful magazine. If you are a leader and are not getting the Clarion, please contact me.

I have learned from several sources that you CAN get an ad in the newspapers if you take the right approach. As an illustration, WOMANEWS, a part of the Chicago Tribune, carries an ad for Chi Chapter. It states: "CROSSDRESSERS SUPPORT GROUP - wives and partners welcome - Tri-Ess" (and follows with a local telephone number and address). In addition, my good friend and psychologist, Sallie Hunt, has a similar ad in the Fresno Bee. She actually has her ad indicate that there is a crossdressers' support group available, and she has already picked up about nine people in that area. She is working some of their problems out and then will turn them over to Tri-Ess - specifically, Tri-Chi Chapter in the valley here. Sallie's ad is carried under Support Groups. So things might just be changing regarding ads for crossdressers. Why not give it a try? Check to see if your local newspapers carry a section devoted to support groups, veterans organizations, hobby groups, health organizations, and what have you. If you are successful with an ad, please let us know here in Tulare. This might just be a breakthrough that we have needed for years.

Some time ago, I attended an exhibition at a gallery in Fresno, featuring female impersonators. The photographer (Avigdar), who took beautiful, large pictures of female impersonators, is getting an excellent reputation concerning his work. Marlene and I both attended the exhibit and noted that it was well attended over the ten

days the pictures were on exhibit. Marlene and I approached Avigdar at the time of the exhibition and suggested that he do another exhibit featuring h e t e r o s e x u a l c r o s s d r e s s e r s. Surprisingly, he was very interested, and suggested that we contact him later to see what could be developed for us.

We saw Avigdar just before Christmas and we went into a lot of detail regarding locating a gallery. (His gallery is booked up for the next two and a half years - it's owned jointly by the artists who exhibit there.) We talked about renting a vacant store front and changing it into a temporary gallery - which is often done. We talked about frames (they help the picture to stand out - if you use the right frames) and other matters of importance. And, most helpful, Avigdar said that he did not want any pay for all the photography work that he would do. (We will pay him something, anyhow.) Anyway, we are very excited about future prospects for having an exhibition of Tri-Ess members - all looking their best in beautiful clothes. He wants to start by taking a large quality picture of me, and I am to take that picture all over California, getting volunteers for picture-taking sessions. Avigdar will do some traveling to take the pictures.

However, we haven't stopped there. We are talking about once we have had a successful exhibit here in the Fresno area, that we should take the show on the road, so to speak, and exhibit in Los Angeles, San Francisco and other large cities in California, Oregon, Nevada, Utah and other western states. Eventually, if we are successful in these areas, we would like to take the exhibit to other cities throughout the United States



and Canada. Local chapters could supply the personnel to handle the exhibit the nights the galleries were open. I think that we could give away lots of Tri-Ess brochures during the evenings. Tri-Ess sisters would be there, to explain something about the people shown and to acquaint people with crossdressers. Having people meet us in natural surroundings would be just the thing to show that we are normal men who have a distinct need to crossdress. And it would give our members an opportunity to get out to a nice place where they would be welcomed by the public! What an opportunity!

I don't believe that such a project has ever been done before so I guess this may be a first for Tri-Ess. It would certainly give us an opportunity to register a good impression upon the general public. We would probably acquire some new members at the same time. I think that our members would be most pleased to see large, quality photographs exhibited in a professional way. We'll tell you more about this project as it develops. Wish us luck!

A Few Words From The Editor

Jeanette Johnson

MY TOP 10 REASONS

WHY I WOULD RATHER BE A CROSSDRESSER THAN A WOMAN

Recently, I was in the middle of a poker game with some of my "good 'ole boy" buddies --a Miller Lite in hand, a cigar burning at my side, and my boots planted securely beneath the table. I was using my best poker face as I stared at the four kings I was holding. So I wouldn't start smiling too big of a grin, I let my attention turn to this column. I was enjoying being a man to the fullest while thinking about all of the good times I would miss had I been born a female. Some of my CD friends often put into words their dreams of how great life would be had they been born female and were now full fledge women. I believe this fantasy should be shown for all of its faults. While being a crossdresser has its limitations, I know it has got to be better than having been born a female. Here's why:



10. **Crossdressers don't have husbands.** Husbands need more rest—when both spouses work a full day it is the woman who cooks and cleans the home. Husbands get sicker—a woman can have typhoid fever and be giving birth and still is expected to fix supper. A case of the sniffles for the husband will require his total bed rest.
9. **It is more fun to develop a beer gut than cellulite.**
8. **Women are incapable of passing gas** until they have been married for at least one full year and then all bets are off.
7. **Crossdressers can leave their "breasts" in a drawer** when they aren't convenient (i.e. playing golf, sleeping, etc.).
6. **The trauma is less for a crossdresser** than for a woman when they first discover their spouse has been borrowing their pantyhose.
5. **Urinals** and time spent in restrooms save the crossdresser the time equivalent of about nine weeks per year.
4. **A yeast infection** for a crossdresser is that green stuff that appears on bread when it gets too old.
3. **That "uncomfortable" time of the month** for a crossdresser is when he must chose between watching one of two football games or a Geraldo retrospective on "Men in Women's Clothes".
2. **During childbirth,** crossdressers are much more reasonable and analytical while assuring their wife "Honey, if you would just breath right it won't hurt". And finally,
1. **Crossdressers don't have husbands.**

Terminology for the Crossdressing Community by Virginia Prince

The matter of labels in our community has come up many times and seems to be divided between those who want some sort of definition and those who say, "we don't need labels, we are just people". I submit to the latter group that categorization is the way the human mind works and as such descriptive terms are necessary. It would be rather ridiculous not to distinguish between a banana and an orange just because they are both "fruit". Likewise it is necessary to distinguish between races, nations, kinds of people or occupations. But the battle has largely been over what designation should be applied to our group.

The term "transvestite" came into disfavor because it has a medical and thus "abnormal" and pejorative flavor to it. Thus "crossdresser" or "CD" (which is simply substituting English for Latin) has come into common use. However, this is a term that simply says what we DO, not what we ARE. Some years ago, in trying to find a term that described what we ARE, I came up with the terms "Femmiphile" for the individual and "Femmiphilia" for the phenomenon (meaning literally a "lover of the feminine"). It never caught on because it sounds too technical even though it was an accurate term. Now I think it is time for and necessary to generate a new and acceptable term for us.

I say "necessary" because there is an aspect of this terminology problem that has not been given much consideration, but which is vitally important, and that is the public perception of whatever term is used. Whether we like it or not, the public needs to have a descriptive term which they can easily understand and use, and which is also acceptable to members of our community. We are not like alcoholics, drug abusers, criminals, voyeurs, pederasts, schizophrenics, epileptics, or a million other types of people. Therefore, we need a "handle" by which others can comfortably refer to us, distinguish us from all other types of people, and which is positive and not condemnatory.

We all seek greater public understanding and acceptance, but it doesn't seem to occur to us that we can't achieve either until we 1) have a convenient term by which others can refer to us and 2) have it be a term with an easily understood meaning to lay people. That is,

something that doesn't require education or doesn't sound too medical or technical. If we are to talk to people (as on talk shows and lectures, not to speak of one on one conversations) we have to have a term for ourselves that they can relate to practically the first time they hear it.

Now there have been a lot of what I call "cutesy" names invented for us like "femmemen", "girl-guys", "he-shes", "femmemales" and "she males". This latter term has been preempted by a special class of people having both breasts and penises and who like to be photographed in all manner of sexual poses. Unfortunately many of the porno magazines published to show these people use the terms "TV" and "Transvestite" in their titles, thus confusing them with our kind and further making these two terms untenable for us. But these "cutesy" names are no good for public use. They are again words for what is done and contribute nothing to an understanding of what we ARE. Thus there is a great need for a new, true, descriptive and convenient term that will properly describe us and which we can be proud to use.

I therefore would like to propose such a term, namely, BIGENDERIST or BIGENDERAL for the noun, and BIGENDERED for the community at large. The term means that we can express two genders, the masculine and the feminine. It is, therefore, true, it does describe what we do, it is short and convenient and best of all, similar terms are already widely used and understood in society. "Bisexual" is a term known to most everyone to mean someone who can and does perform sexually with members of both the same and opposite sex. Since it is important to us to have the public understand us and it is important to both us and the general public to make a distinction between SEX and GENDER, the term "bi-genderal" is valuable because it aids that distinction. The public already knows that "bisexual" refers to people who can operate in both sex roles, so gender must be different from sex and the term bigenderal facilitates that distinction.

In addition to "bisexual" everybody is well acquainted with the use of the prefix "bi-" in the following words.

Bilateral - two or both sides of
Bicameral - two houses (of the legislature)

Bipartite - two parties, as in
Republicans and Democrats

The Femme Mirror

Bilingual - two languages
Bicentennial - the celebration of two centuries

Biennial - two years, as in biennial report

Bimetallic - two metals as in a thermostat

Bifurcate - a division into two parts as in pants

Bipedal - walking on two feet, as opposed to quadruped

Bivalve - two shells or valves, as in clams & mussels

Bipolar - having two poles, as in magnets

Not to overlook Bicycle - a vehicle with two wheels

I don't mean to give you a whole dictionary, but to show that the prefix "BI-" is well known and used in the English language and therefore well understood. So to refer to us as bigenderal—i.e., having or expressing two genders—not only defines us but promotes the awareness of the separation of sex and gender. This is a matter of importance not just to our community but to society in general since that ignorance is the basis of our difficulties with society.

It should be pointed out that while "bi-" means two, "trans" means across or beyond. Thus the terms "transgenderist" and "transsexual" remain valid and appropriate terms since the former indicates that the individual has crossed the gender border and taken up permanent residence on the other side in the other gender. The latter refers to people who have crossed the sexual border for permanent living as a member of the opposite sex. The fact that they have also crossed the gender border is secondary and incidental to their altering their sexual status. The commonly used term "transgendered" to describe the community is not correct to begin with, because most of the members of the community have not "trans-"ed anything except on a very temporary basis. The consistent and therefore proper word to describe the community as a whole should therefore be "bigendered".

I hope the word "Bigenderal" will be adopted and promoted in books, newsletters, lectures, etc. until we have one generally accepted word within our community and one which we can gradually teach to society in general and the professional community in particular. Your help in achieving this goal will be appreciated by all.

SPECIAL SECTION:

SECONDARY TRANSSEXUALISM

While we were aware, when we wrote of this topic in our last issue, of the importance of this issue, we were astounded by the reader response generated by the things we said. We received numerous submissions from our readers, wives included, addressing the issue and stating their thoughts relative to this important topic. We want to respond to the needs and concerns of our readers, therefore we are presenting a special section in which these articles are printed for your information. Our presenting this special section in this manner and at this time, is in no way to be interpreted as any form of action on our part to counter or as a reaction to anything published in any other publication. Our presentation of these articles is not to be interpreted in any way as a negative commentary being directed by us toward true transsexual individuals or those striving to serve their special needs. We recognize there are individuals who legitimately are appropriately identified as Transsexuals and for whom appropriate medical treatment is indicated. This presentation is not directed toward these individuals we call: True Transsexuals. Our concern is for those who are appropriately designated as "Secondary Transsexuals". Please, dear readers, read these articles on the next twelve pages with open minds and willing, open, and honest hearts. We think all of us can benefit from a clearer understanding of this issue. Eds.

The All-American Crossdresser: A Vanishing Breed

by Shirley Kay

The All-American Crossdresser - You still remember him, don't you? The man who has a facet of his personality which loves the feminine. He thinks looking and acting feminine is just delightful; but he also knows he is a man and derives an equal amount of satisfaction from being and expressing his male side. He's not on hormones, has no desire to live as his femme self full time, and God forbid anyone should even suggest tampering with his male anatomy. He loves his feminine ways, but not at the expense of his maleness. Within the gender community today he seems to be a dying breed.

Recently on the way home from a chapter meeting, my partner and I were discussing the fact that yet another of our crossdressing friends was taking female hormones. "Am I the only crossdresser not on hormones?" he asked me, obviously upset. This comment led to what we felt was a very productive discussion, which resulted in some conclusions that we felt should be addressed in print and given some thought by other members of the gender community.

When coming out of the closet, and for the first time experiencing the total and unconditional acceptance of the gender community, many crossdressers tend to almost become obsessed with their feminine side. They have suppressed and/or hidden their desire for the feminine for so long that it only seems fair that now their male side take a back seat for a while, and they throw themselves totally into the safe haven they have found for the expression of their femme self.

Eventually, however, reality must set in and a balance must be reached. Because of the many influences of the gender community, this balance may not be so easily reached and is often difficult to maintain. There is a great deal of peer pressure within the gender community - a fact which often goes unrecognized. Many

crossdressers come to realize that while in many ways finding the gender community is a blessing, it can also be a curse; affecting both the individual crossdresser and his personal relationships.

Discussing the need for this balance is important because there are those crossdressers who have expressed the feeling that since coming into the gender community, they have felt that they have lost contact with their male side. They feel pressured by other members of the community to express only the feminine. They feel that while their femme selves have come out of the closet, their male selves have been forced into one.

Some have also expressed feelings of inferiority because they choose not to have chemically induced curves or shave their body hair. They feel undue pressure to attend support meetings only en femme, or to accept as the ultimate goal living full time as their femme self. Many have even questioned whether perhaps something is

wrong with them because they aren't in fact transsexual - that relishing both the male and the female is wrong.

A frequent complaint encountered from family members is that while finding the gender community has enabled the crossdresser to come out of the closet, it has

by Patricia Kennedy

put undue pressure on an already stressed relationship, and it does more to undermine the relationship than to strengthen it. Usually these relationships are already in varying stages of crisis just dealing with and trying to understand the occasional need to dress en femme. These relationships are further stressed by entrance into the gender community and the additional pressures which result. I have heard many genetic women say that the worst thing that ever happened to their marriages and relationships was getting involved with the gender community. This needs to change!

The gender community needs to stop and take a closer look at itself. A balance needs to be struck for those who need it. It should be just as acceptable to express your maleness as it is your femaleness. You should be able to freely express yourself whatever your needs be - whether those needs be that of a spouse, crossdresser, transsexual, or anywhere in between.

Society puts enough pressure on ALL of us. We do not need to add to it ourselves. We need to make "THE ALL-AMERICAN CROSSDRESSER" a more visible and acceptable part of the gender community, not an endangered species.

Initially, this article was going to be filled with lovely metaphors and well-orchestrated analogies, but the more I thought about it, the more I became angry and hurt and less interested in sugar-coating the truth. If you have a weak heart perhaps you had better stop here or read the next article, "My First Trip to the Mall".

Well, it's nice to know someone stuck around. If you will permit me, I will adjust the soap box, kick off my heels and pour a drink. Do you remember me? Three years ago I meekly attended my first Tri-Ess meeting, pink sweater and burgundy skirt, my 1970's Frederick's wig and a makeup job that looked like it had been applied by a brick layer. I was overwhelmed to find six other crossdressers who welcomed me and understood what I was going through. Well, over the years I have shot the brick layer, decided that pink was not the only color I could wear, and gotten at least one new wig. But as is often the case, the more you learn the more there is to learn, and our community won't let you forget it. The other side about learning is that many times we don't like what we learn. This has certainly been the case recently.

decade or two. But, I bet I wouldn't be alone. Our community exerts more peer pressure on an individual than most can tolerate. It starts with shaving your legs and ends with a week long trip in beautiful southern Colorado. We all succumb to it in the vein of learning from our peers. We start with the simple things like makeup, hair, passing in public, and before you know it you have digested three months of female hormones and now only have to shave once a week. The funny thing is that it happens more than you know and it happens easier than you think. Yes, it's a clever scam, always focusing on the greener pastures of femininity, the glory and glitz of beauty and sensuality. And if perhaps you don't immediately buy into the feminine mystique, someone is always right there to remind you that as a crossdresser, you are reaping the benefits of living in a world that has been pioneered by the famous transsexuals and transgenderists. (You should feel guilty here and rush to the phone to call your psychiatrist, your endocrinologist, and to book a room at the Best Western in Trinidad.)

On the other side of the coin, our loved ones are watching with their mouths wide open. Where has his backbone gone? Why the sudden interest in SRS? What will happen to us if Daddy becomes a girl? This is about the only time you pipe up and say "Honey, why don't you come to a meeting with me and meet the other girls?" Yes, this is a guaranteed way to get your spouse involved - with a lawyer.

Peer Pressure is real, it's alive and well in all facets of our lives and especially in the gender community. The pressure ranges from a gentle nudge to downright discrimination. The current *Tapestry* has dedicated some thirty five pages to telling the story of Merissa Sherrill Lynn and her wonderful stay at the Biber Bed and Breakfast. I have to ask a question: are we destined to SRS the moment we don our first pair of panties? Is this the Reefer Madness of the 50's - Panty Madness?

Well, I'm an All-American crossdresser - white panties, blue bra and red hair, a scotch in one hand and a purse in the other. Sometimes I feel awfully intimidated by

I feel like I should be left in that vacuum for a
Page 7

QUESTION: Is it possible to measure peer pressure?

ANSWER: Yes, peer pressure can be measured by placing the subject in a vacuum and then measuring the amount of internal pressure his body exerts. This amount is subtracted from 100 (the maximum degree of peer pressure) and the result is the degree of peer pressure on the subject. If the measured peer pressure exceeds 60, it is a good idea to leave the subject in the vacuum for a year or so. (Taken from the December, 1990, edition of *OMNI* magazine, author Merry Morris.)

Tanya Brown's



Prosthesis Emporium

Send S.A.S.E. to:
T.P. Brown, P.O. Box 257, Windsor, OH. 44099
(A Tri-Ess Member Serving Her Sisters)

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for a sample issue
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the TS's and TG's. I get pretty upset by the way crossdressers are treated in this community. It's like we really aren't a contributing factor. Well, this is just plain bull@&!#. The hard cold facts are that there are more crossdressers than TS's and TG's. The TS's and TG's eventually leave the community to lead their own lives, yet the crossdressers are crossdressers for life. We continue to deal with gender issues throughout our lives. If anybody has picked a difficult road it is the crossdresser. He has to balance a family, relationships and gender issues much like juggling china plates. The peer pressure currently experienced in our community is enough to destroy this tedious juggling act.

So how do we, All-American crossdressers, deal with the situation? I believe the solution is a three step process. 1) A firm understanding of personal goals and dreams. 2) Real communications between yourself and your life partner. 3) Participation in a support group which understands and empathizes with issues you are concerned about.

PERSONAL GOALS

The difference between having personal goals and not is the difference between the rock in the river and the tree branch. The tree branch is easily caught up in the river's current, while the rock remains stable and moves only occasionally.

Deciding for yourself, totally for yourself, what you want and where you would like to be in both the immediate future and the long term future will provide the greatest shield against peer pressure. The easiest way to defeat external pressure is to create internal pressure greater than the external pressure. This is accomplished through the strength of personal conviction. Personal conviction can be attained by defining self goals and understanding self. This is the foundation upon which a strong self defense is built.

Keep in mind that we all live in a dynamic world. That is, goals and decisions made today may become invalid with time, so be prepared to revisit the goals issue whenever necessary.

LIFE PARTNER

Special Section

I have chosen the term life partner to mean wife, girlfriend, significant other, or best friend. This is simply a convenient term to use in this discussion. The day to day problems and emotional upheavals which occur in our society will often allow one to forget one's personal convictions. The emotion of a dear friend choosing the TS path may cause depression and internal questioning. Having an honest discussion with your life partner will ease the momentary conflict.

Ideally, the communications with your life partner should be open and honest. This is not necessarily easy to achieve, but is essential to your relationship and personal mental health. This type of communication should be a constant goal in the relationship. She can help you weather the difficult times, if for no other reason than she has so much invested. The closeness achieved from trying to attain this type of communication will build a stronger foundation and help the relationship.

She can hold you while you tremble in the anguish of self doubt. Her strength can become your strength during trying times. No doubt you have done the same for her. And in fact the TS path is eventually your path, the foundation of your relationship will allow both of you to explore alternatives which might otherwise be excluded if the communications did not exist.

Your life partner is just that, a dear friend and lover who travels life's paths with you. Your strengths collectively are greater than the individual parts. You are for her and she is for you. She can be your greatest resource for strength in difficult times.

SUPPORT GROUPS

In our community there are many support groups and all of them attempt to expound some unique position. The plain facts are that two types of groups exist in this community: open groups and closed groups.

Open groups are a melting pot of the community with membership ranging from the occasional crossdresser to the post-op TS. While these groups can be a lot of fun they are usually concerned with issues that transcend the crossdresser.

They can be a great place to meet new friends and gain some understanding of the TS world. They are not the best place to bring a life partner, or to find one, for that matter.

Closed groups have a more defined agenda. They deal specifically with the issues of a portion of the community. There are closed TS groups as well as crossdressing groups. Tri-Ess is the largest of the closed groups in existence today which deal strictly with the concerns of the heterosexual crossdresser.

Tri-Ess is a well established organization devoted to the crossdresser and his family. We need to support the organization because it is the only group that truly cares about us. A year ago I thought that allowing TS's into Tri-Ess was a good idea, but today I have to reconsider that stance. There are a veritable plethora of organizations to support TS's, yet only one organization supports crossdressers exclusively, and in Tri-Ess we are the recognized majority.

Participation in Tri-Ess can be very helpful when trying to deal with community peer pressure. To argue that Tri-Ess is free of peer pressure would be absurd, yet the pressure is of a different degree. Seldom is there a new thought. That is, if you are having difficulty with external pressure, rest assured that someone else has struggled with the same concerns. Tri-Ess presents the vehicle to facilitate discussions about those concerns and a path to self resolution. Furthermore, Tri-Ess is an excellent environment for your life partner. Through Tri-Ess she can meet other partners and discuss matters which are important to her.

CONCLUSION

Peer pressure and discrimination will continue to exist throughout time. While the texture may change, the intent remains the same: to suppress a portion of the population in one way or another. To hope that it will just go away is naive. Your best defense is to accept that it exists and find the tools which help you deal with the situation the best that you can.

Joint Article On Secondary TS Issues

by Cynthia and Linda Phillips

First, Cynthia:

I was on the phone the other evening with a good friend of mine that is a post-op. She stated that she had just defended me in a letter. I asked what this person had said. I was told that the person felt that I hated all TS's. My friend pointed out that this was completely untrue. "Cynthia knows many people that feel they are TS, and she simply doesn't want them to get hurt by making the wrong decision." I thanked her for coming to my defense, as this is very true. So many of my crossdressing friends ARE making the wrong decisions. If I truly believe that someone IS a TS, I will support them as best I can, BUT, so many people I know are not TS. They hand this title on themselves, and then proceed to not only ruin their lives, but the lives of their families, when they aren't even really sure what a TS really is!

Unfortunately, we have many "gender-mills" around the country that "feed" on these poor souls. They go to the clinics to find out more about themselves, and next thing you know, they have been "stamped" a TS, by a "caring professional"!

There is a major problem with crossdressers believing that being a TS is the "ultimate" goal. That this is the highest "rank" you can achieve. The basic crossdresser MUST understand that you DO NOT evolve into a TS! A transsexual is, and always has been, a transsexual. This is not a rank, it's a fact!

If one were going to talk about the "ultimate", this would be the crossdresser, as he/she can switch back and forth between the roles. The post-op TS is doomed to live in the "twilight zone".

Having the operation will NOT make you a woman! This is another fact. You cannot create a woman with "cosmetic surgery." You will always be an "altered" male.

I have been told by several people that they feel the SRS surgery is "romantic". Romantic!! Give me a break! Wake up! Do

you have any idea of the physical problems that you will be experiencing for the rest of your life? Trust me, it's anything but romantic.

Some "would-be" TS's feel that they can't "pass" in Society, but that if they have the operation, they will be able to. I have been told that they believe they will lose their beards after surgery, so why get electrolysis now! This is all nothing but pure fantasy.

Some of my closest friends are post-op transsexuals, and this article is not meant for them. They are content with their decision. At this point, all I can do is support them, and support them I will! BUT....They are not my concern at the moment. My concern is YOU. Please, please keep your "feet on the ground". Don't slip into Fantasyland. This is the "real world", and this operation is no "bed of roses."

Now, Linda:

Having many friends who think themselves transsexuals or who really are transsexual, both pre- and post-op, and having gone through that phase of my life, where I felt as though I, myself, were a TS, I have observed many factors that I feel are involved in the desire to make a commitment that is essentially irrevocable.

One is what I think of as "the lure of the untried". Most crossdressers have never tried living in the other role for any length of time. A great many of these also feel, rightly or wrongly, that as men, it is impossible for them to pass as women. The hard facts are, sex reassignment surgery will not make you shorter or smaller, make you weigh less, give you a feminine voice, or do away with your beard! Plus, it does not make your teeth whiter! Passing has nothing to do with SRS. I have a friend who, after surgery, lived five years as a woman, and has since gone back to living as a male (with the wrong "plumbing"). When asked why she gave up living as a woman, she told me she was tired of "being read, embarrassed, and starving to

death". I will point out that she is a large person, over six feet tall, big boned, and always had a voice problem which no amount of work seemed to cure.

Another situation is the one I like to call "natural progression". If we follow all our whims and desires as crossdressers, we sometimes think, "Since all this works so well, why not go all the way?" The old saying among us, "If being a crossdresser is a life sentence, being a transsexual is getting a reprieve from the governor," is not quite true. There is no "end of the road" when you are crossgendered, no completion, no ending. You die the way you came into this life, as you are. Some of us simply cannot bear to think of this, and like to think SRS is a "cure". In this age of "quick fixes", we hate to think there is something that can't be cured by a visit to the Doctor; that there isn't anything that a few pills or some surgery won't resolve. We delude ourselves into believing that SRS is the natural progression on the road of the crossgendered.

This is exactly what happened to me. I had (have) a completely understanding and loving wife, who never denied me anything. Therefore, I lived a great deal of time as my "femme self". We often went out as two females, and she encouraged me in forming and shaping my female persona. The one day the thought just came to me: I loved being "her" so much, why not "be" a woman permanently? After all, I was good at it, I loved it, and my wife and I (I thought) would be that much closer. When I told my wife of my desires to have my sex "changed", she was not encouraging. She explained to me the brutal facts: I couldn't be a woman; I would never be a complete female. I would still never bear children, which had long been a desire of mine. We would still be together, but SRS would take an important factor out of our marriage, a marriage which wouldn't even be legal. "You appear as a woman when you dress as one," my wife pointed out. "No surgeon could do more for you than that." After we discussed all this over and over, I finally came to realize that what she said was true.

As the years go by, I have come to the

realization that seeming to be a woman when I desire is much more satisfying than undergoing an operation to appease a Society that desires there be only black and white and no greys. I enjoy jumping the "line" back and forth between the genders too much to just be "one persona", and not even being able to be that completely.

There is also the matter of sexual orientation. Most of us are born liking women. In fact, we like them so much we want to emulate them in many ways. This means we identify with them, and not men. It has always struck me as odd that if you really didn't feel at ease around men, and

Special Section

find it hard to identify with them, why would you want to have an operation to be able to relate to them sexually? Many "would-be" TS's tell me they want to be able to enter into a lesbian relationship with a woman after their surgery. The Problem is, most of the women they are interested in having a relationship with are heterosexual. So after the operation, our "would-be" lesbian is restricted to a very limited type of woman.

In our group, when we encounter crossdressers who are bound and determined to follow the TS route (remember, the difference between a TS and a terrorist is, you can negotiate with the terrorist), we

have found the best approach is to tell them to take six months off, or a year if they can afford it, and live as a woman. (This is, after all, part of the "real life test" they will have to eventually go through before surgery anyway). In the majority of cases, living as a woman for an extended length of time is enough to convince them of their folly. Most people we know who have done this, have either given up before even six months is up, or in some cases, have like it so much they decided to live full time without surgery. The folks we worry about are the ones who take things into their own hands and work outside the system, using any method possible to achieve their ends.

Winter 1992

An Open Letter to the Gender Community

(A Wife's Perspective)

by Julie Freeman CA-9015-F

I have been a member of the gender community for almost five years. Before that, I had little, if any, knowledge of transvestism, or transsexualism. My husband, like so many, found as he was approaching his mid 40's that he could no longer keep his crossdressing a secret from me. So one day, several years ago, he took me aside and explained his "secret" and why he had to come forward.

I was startled, bewildered, and confused, as any wife might be, learning about this behavior for the first time. We talked a lot, and as time went on, I became accepting. I was very concerned in the beginning that our children might react badly, and I definitely did not want our employers, neighbors, or relatives to know. My husband agreed; he was just as concerned as I was with security and privacy.

We did, however, think it best for our children to know. Since they were both young adults at the time, it was not hard for us to agree. We told them and they were somewhat accepting at that time. They still prefer NOT to see their father when crossdressed, although they respect his right to do so.

We became very active in local support groups and have met many wonderful people: crossdressers, their significant others, helping professionals, etc. I thought that perhaps crossdressing could become a very positive force in our lives, if it was kept in proper perspective.

BUT over time, I noticed my husband was NOT happy in just crossdressing on occasion and going to various events - parties, educational seminars, holidays, etc. He wanted more - outreach became very important. That was not really an issue with me, as I certainly agreed with the need to educate society.

BUT he also wanted electrolysis, hormones, and possibly implants, etc. Even the dreaded phrase - "sexual reassignment surgery" - raised its ugly head in our home. I was getting nervous and even scared as he talked more and more about wanting to become a woman.

Behind my back, so to speak, he started electrolysis. I was shocked, but he said he would not do anything else without my knowledge and permission. But I had not expected him to start electrolysis without my permission, so I was and still am to a certain degree not totally secure with this promise.

Things went along - sort of status quo. A lot of talk about becoming a woman, but no further action. About this time in our lives, we started to see a plethora of sex changes. Individuals recently members of our support group were suddenly off to Colorado and Belgium. Wives were coming to my significant others support group crying that their husbands were now taking hormones, etc.

We saw some divorces and many broken relationships. We were beginning to see a

real division in the TV-TS community. Those who considered themselves open-minded were very accepting of this trend towards sexual reassignment surgery, or at least very positive and accepting of those individuals who made those decisions, regardless of the families left behind. We saw others who were becoming disturbed and alarmed at this trend.

I was in limbo! I had tried so hard to be open-minded in the beginning. I have always considered myself tolerant and I bent over backwards to treat all members in our support group with consideration and dignity. But I was seeing some rapid deterioration in the family support system and I was faced with my open prospect of deterioration at home.

My husband, fortunately, was NOT pleased with what he was seeing. Too many divorces, too many broken homes! So he has backed off considerably. He no longer talks of sexual reassignment surgery, but does speak wistfully of hormones, implants, etc. But with the recent scientific findings of problems with implants and hormones, he is in no real hurry to venture down that obstacle-ridden path.

So why am I writing this! I am writing because I do not know what the future holds for us. I do not know when or if my husband will decide that more is better. I need answers. Does someone like my husband, who has lived a heterosexual lifestyle with wife, family, job, for almost thirty years need a sex change to make him happy! Or is he just

pursuing a fantasy, not being realistic! I don't know. But I do know that for us to maintain the strong marital relationship we have today, sexual reassignment surgery can have no place.

Special Section

I am speaking out because I believe there are many of us - wives who love our husbands dearly and who are accepting of

The Femme Mirror
their crossdressing - but do not want to see our husbands pursue a direction in their lives which may lead to heartache and sadness for us all.

A QUESTION OF BALANCE

by Donna Mobley

Suzy purged last weekend.

"Never again", she told herself, as she tossed thousands of dollars worth of clothes into the dumpster. "From now on", she told herself over and over, "I'm just going to be exactly who and what I am. No more pretending."

Familiar story, you say? Yes, we've all seen it happen, probably even done it ourselves a few times. We all know Suzy's decision won't last for very long. But her case is a little different.

Suzy's a trained and highly skilled professional in her field, intelligent and not given to irrational thought. She's always felt herself to have her life well in hand. But Suzy isn't dealing rationally with being a crossdresser; she's just ignoring it. Instead of learning to cope, she's walking away and pretending her problem isn't really there.

We all find out sooner or later we can't just ignore that "other" part of our being, that slightly out-of-step part of our totality. But Suzy's really convinced that she's going to do it. She's determined and believes with all her heart she's going to do it, going to change her life forever.

Crossdressing ruined her first marriage. Suzy doesn't know it yet, but it's about to ruin her second.

Suzy just returned from her first convention, one of the many three-day events that are popping up all over these days. It took all her powers of persuasion, but she talked her wife into going with her. For three days, Suzy was in heaven. She learned more about clothes and makeup than she ever thought there was to know. She met many interesting people and made

several new friends. More significantly, she went out in public for the first time. Together with two dozen others, she went on shopping trips and tours and dined in fine restaurants and was pleasantly surprised to discover that people didn't seem to mind. She almost fainted the first time a waitress called her ma'am.

At one of the dinners Suzy bumped into a word that was new to her: transgendered. While still a little giddy from her first outing, she met a charming person who seemed to embody all that Suzy had begun to dream about. She was living full-time as a woman. Suzy couldn't imagine a more perfect life.

Suzy spent hours in rapt attention as her new friend told her how wonderful it had been to get rid of all the "macho masculine baggage", as she put it. She told her how easy it was to obtain all the hormones she needed, how great it was not to have to use those silly falsies any more, how easy it was to put on her makeup now that electrolysis had wiped out the last trace of a beard, how free it felt to be out from under those ridiculous wigs after she'd let her own hair grow out

Suzy was so enraptured by the thought of being able to live full-

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worked at it. She had a job that enabled her to work at home. She was single and had no heavy family or financial responsibilities. And at the age of 23, male pattern baldness didn't exactly loom large on her horizon, at least not yet.

Suzy's wife appeared to be enjoying herself at the event, and Suzy was thrilled at her apparent acceptance of the crossdressing.

Yes, she had enjoyed herself and enjoyed meeting with some of the other wives. Suzy's wife, however, had discovered even those who appeared accepting and tolerant often had a great deal of difficulty with their situations. The couple returned home feeling good about their weekend experience.

So, less than a year after coming out of the closet and only two weeks after returning from the convention, Suzy purged.

The coats and ties, the clunky shoes, boxer shorts and pants, all headed for the dumpster. Sam was gone forever. From now on, it was just going to be Suzy.

She had taken a giant leap away from her common sense, but nothing was going to dissuade her. Not the fact that no perm was ever going to hide the small but growing bald spot, not the fact of being over six feet tall with a build like an athlete made her a little conspicuous. The guys in the shop certainly wouldn't mind when Suzy suddenly started showing up at work. After all, hadn't she done pretty well out in public at the convention? People seemed to accept her quite well. She'd certainly need a lot of new clothes, but the money was there in the vacation fund. The kids would understand.

Her friend from the convention had said she'd help her get started on hormones, and Suzy had visions of looking like Dolly Parton in time for the next convention, certainly by the end of the year.

While Suzy flitted about the house like a fifteen year old girl, her wife struggled to understand what had

Special Section

become of the man she had married. And while Suzy was looking for a good electrologist, her wife was looking for a good lawyer.

I've heard some snickers and sensed a lot of smugness from a few of those who claim to be living full-time as a woman and seem to be doing well at it. There's a seeming attitude of condescension toward others of us in the community. The full-timers sometimes act as though they've "graduated" to a higher plane than that of the "mere" crossdresser. It's not hard to understand why, and it's something we may all be prone to from time to time.

But Suzy is seeing these people as role models for the kind of life she would like to live. She overlooks so many flaws in the picture.

I don't know a single full-timer who's making a living out there in the real world. Not one. They're all retired, with a pension or other form of income that won't be threatened by their change in lifestyle. Or they're trying to make a living working in the gender community, selling one product or another or publishing something.

Forget it, Suzy. There's no more money to be made in the gender community. Those who are making a modest go of it out there in the real world have the physical size and looks to make it work. People don't feel embarrassed to have them around. But my guess is

Winter 1992

ninety percent haven't got the looks or build to pull it off. Passing for a few hours in the evening, under artificial light, and with another group of crossdressers is one thing. Doing it in daylight every day is quite another.

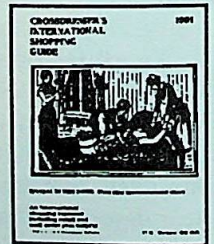
Without electrolysis, a lot of heavy makeup is going to be needed two or three times a day, and that stuff's hot and uncomfortable. Electrolysis is expensive and may take a couple of years to complete. A full, healthy head of hair may let you dispense with wigs for a while, but sooner or later Nature will see to it the wigs will come back out of the closet.

Having enough clothes for a couple of weeks in Provincetown is one thing; living full-time means having more than just one small closet full of clothes. Even bargain basement clothes are darned expensive, and you'll need lots of them.

Hormones? Forget it. Prescription hormones and regular care by a physician are going to be hugely

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Winter 1992

expensive, and taking hormones without consultation with a doctor is dangerous in the extreme.

Non-prescription, over-the-border hormones are even riskier, and they're not cheap, either. In any case, it could take years before they have any visible effect. The subtle emotional side effects, however, may become apparent much sooner. And if you're married, your wife is sure to be a little unhappy with other side effects.

Ah, yes; the wife. I don't know of one wife who is happily married to a full-timer. Not one. They may have tolerated the crossdressing, may even have come to accept and understand it. But your wife didn't sign on for a lesbian relationship, and that's what you're presenting her. You in a nightie next to her each night from now on means a short future together.

On the other hand, there's a slim chance it might work for a while if you have nothing more than a platonic relationship in mind. That's one of the other interesting little side effects of hormones.

You can tell her you're not really transsexual; insinuating you're just a crossdresser who wants to live full time. Tell her until you're blue in the face. She won't see any difference, and neither will anyone else. The odds the relationship will survive are pretty damned small.

Just who are we, anyway? What are we? Neither masculine nor feminine, somewhere in the middle in a gender role without definition, we struggle for identity in a world where male and female are presumed to be absolutes. Many of us spend the greater part of our lives trying to deny the feminine part of ourselves that causes so much confusion. When we finally acknowledged "her" and gave her expression, it was an uplifting experience. For others, recognition of the feminine side is painfully difficult. But sooner or later, most of us find our self-acceptance and begin to define that middle gender for ourselves. We find the gender role where we can draw on the best of both sides to create the

Special Section

special and unique person residing in each of us.

Suzy isn't on the road to self-acceptance. Denying Sam is as pointless as denying Suzy. Instead of dealing realistically with being a crossdresser, Suzy's running away to a Premarin-induced Never Never Land where all her problems will disappear. Denying you're a male won't make you a female. Neither will chemicals and neither will the surgeon's knife.

We tend to accord higher status and stature to those who best exemplify all those feminine virtues we try so hard to emulate. Perhaps it might be well to acknowledge those who attain a much tougher personal goal, the integration of both masculine and feminine.

While being able to live and work full-time as a woman may be a viable option for a very small percentage of us, most of us are going to have to find our true selves in that gray area between the genders. We're dual-gendered. We have to discover and develop the two opposite poles of our personalities and bring them together until they merge and strengthen each other instead of pulling us apart.

Stand squarely on both feet and you have a balance difficult to upset. Stand on only one leg and your balance is so delicate it takes very little to topple you. Finding the balance takes time and patience, but it's worth the effort.

We invariably begin our talks and

The Femme Mirror lectures by telling the audience all men have a feminine side and all women have a masculine side (in varying degrees, of course). Yet the more we develop the feminine, the more we tend to reject the masculine. Some of the worst male-bashing I've heard came not from militant feminists or even gay women, but from right here in the gender community.

That rejection almost seems to border on self-hatred. Denying we're male won't make us female; nothing will. Rejecting the feminine part won't make us "real men"; we know this from experience. We need to search for our true selves in that middle-gender zone where we can develop and utilize the best of both.

Finding balance brings all our parts into a wholeness that's closer to who we really are. Even if we don't reject the masculine totally, it can suffer badly from neglect.



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Last spring I found myself in the position of having nearly lost touch with the part of me (not that there was ever much there) I could identify clearly as the All-American Man. I had little or no social life outside the gender community. Donna had friends all over the country; Don, not a one. And yet with all Donna's friends, I found myself becoming quite lonely. There was an enormous void her friends didn't fill completely. I seemed to be hopping around on one leg, trying vainly to keep my balance and still go somewhere. It wasn't working.

So I hung up the clothes for a while and shoved the makeup kit into a drawer. I set out to rediscover that part of me that was hung in the closet where Donna's stuff used to hang. I planted BOTH feet on the ground and walked away for a while. And from that little distance I began to see a little more clearly what had been happening to me and to many of my friends. We were trying to be whole by denying one of the parts.

A small card containing a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson has sat on my desk next to this typewriter for more years than I can remember. I found it in his "Essay on Self Reliance" when I was in high school. The card is yellowed from age and a little tattered, but the words on it ring out as clearly now as they did when I first read and memorized them nearly twenty-five years ago:

"Insist on yourself; never imitate. Your own gift you can present every moment with the cumulative force of a whole life's cultivation; but of the adoptive talent of another, you have only an extemporaneous half-possession...Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind. Nothing can bring you peace but yourself."

That balance point differs in each of us. One side or the other may loom large or small. We may dress every day, once or twice a week, once a month for a chapter meeting, or even just once or twice a year. The degree is immaterial. When the needs of both sides are met and can be expressed, the balance is there. Reject, neglect, or

Special Section

deny either part and the wholeness is gone. The balance is destroyed.

I'm neither a man pretending to be a woman nor a woman pretending to be a man. I'm dual-gendered and happily so. Don and Donna coexist and together

they make up who and all that I truly am. To lose either part would leave me empty, since neither can exist without the other.

In my home, we both wear the pants.

To Save A Family

by Jane Ellen Fairfax

Foreword:

This article is not about the primary transsexual, the person with a transgendered core-identity, who has never functioned well in his anatomic gender. From an early age the primary transsexual is aware of living in the wrong body. Only by sexual reassignment can unification between psyche and body be achieved. For many of these people, the decision for sexual reassignment is literally the decision to live. Some primary transsexuals are married and have families. The breakup of these families can have severe consequences in the lives of spouses and children. But such emotional consequences must be weighed against the life of the transsexual. The following article will doubtless be controversial. If, however, it saves one family, it will not have been written in vain.

People crossdress for various reasons. Some find it "feels good or right"; others find relief for stress. Having discovered a cross-gendered side to their personalities, others find crossdressing exerts a "lens effect" that facilitates self-expression. Most crossdressers, however, accept their birth gender. Although they vary in the amount of time devoted to crossgendered expression, most know where fantasy ends and reality begins. Today, the crossgender community is being deeply troubled by crossdressers who are losing sight of reality. Labelling themselves transsexual, they glut themselves on a smorgasbord of crossgender gewgaws, up to and including sexual reassignment. Behind them they leave a flotsam of broken lives, destroyed families, and pain unending.

"The day that we wed,
You blessed us and said,
'May Heaven bestow you grace..'"

Not everyone has a church wedding, but

we all vow to "love, honor, and cherish so long as we both shall live". The love between man and woman is a holy thing. By that holy love we make a lifetime alliance and create a secure nest in which to rear our children. When all the world is against us, our life partner believes in our cause. Life's crises are more easily overcome together. We watch our little ones grow strong, and nurture that growth in love. Growing old together, we never forget the day when she in white lace, and he in elegant tux, were for a day the acme of feminine tenderness and masculine strength. And so the two live as one flesh.

"Our cottage was small
But richer than all
The palaces of a king.
All day the birds would sing.
Our hearts were full of spring."

"For richer, for poorer, for better, for worse", we promise to share our lives in love. In the complexity of life, however, how easy it is to lose the simple poetry of love! If, in such a life of love, one partner reveals a need for crossgender expression, love can overcome fear, and the crossgenderism can even become an opportunity for growth in the marriage. The realization comes that we love the person regardless of what he/she is wearing. Building on their discovery, the parents ground their children in nurturing, tenderness, and sensitivity. Nothing disturbs this Garden of Love. All things good grow in it.

"She came along
And sang him her song
And won him with honeyed lies,
She of the golden eyes.
Now it's my heart that cries."

Properly integrated into the personality, the feminine self can be the angel of fulfillment. Exalted as a goal, however, she can be the siren of destruction for many

lives. A wife is told about her husband's crossdressing. After a titanic struggle she learns to accept and integrate the crossgenderism into the relationship. She even becomes an active participant in a support group. Then, in an abject betrayal, her life partner abandons her to indulge in a destructive potlatch of his maleness, and reconstruction as an ersatz woman. Her heart does cry, as she contemplates life without the man she loves. And what of the children, deprived of the role model that only "Daddy" can provide? Perhaps it's their hearts that cry, too! All this devastation, because the crossdresser has listened to a lie.

And, oh! the honey in that lie! Oh, how plausible it can sound! Life is not treating "him" very well. The daily grind of being the breadwinner is so stressful. The boss is on the warpath; financial difficulties sap self-esteem. "John" feels frustrated and angry in the company of macho men. Reports, late nights, crabby family, lawsuits - enough!! Like the siren's song, "Joan" steals upon his soul. What a lovely life she has! No stress, no responsibilities, no anxieties. "Her" life is an eternal good time - parties, gatherings, excursions. Wouldn't it be nice to be

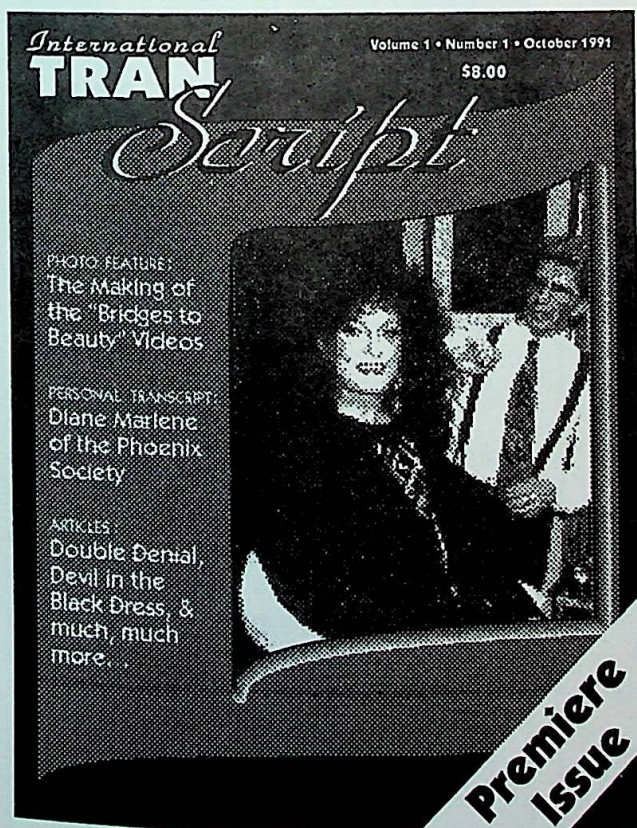
Special Section

Joan all the time? What is John good for, anyway? Destroy him! And so in sexual reassignment, John seeks fantasy solutions to real problems. Sooner or later, he sees the cruel irony. He has lost his wife and family, and probably his job. Then tension of trying to pass is his millstone for life. He's had to reorient his sexuality, or become a part of the gay community. Perhaps the boss is gone - but so is his salary. As a "woman" he will experience wage and job discrimination. Perhaps the male within him has not been totally extinguished; in some ways seeking sexual reassignment is a very macho act. If "she" desires expression of masculine ideals, "she" will experience some loss of credibility. Pathetically, she discovers that after all the loss, she is still a very imperfect woman. Never will she have the XX chromosome pattern; the bone structure will still be incontrovertably male. Physical consequences of surgery will require lifetime maintenance. The voice will not be perfectly feminine. Chances are, the soul will be a masculine-feminine hybrid. Surgery and hormones can, for a physical price, create a somewhat feminine habitus. For the rest of her life she will remain, however, a facsimile woman.

The Femme Mirror

Some crossdressers treat their feminine expression as a "corporate ladder", a series of "grades" to accomplish. They glory in their first time out en femme, first support group meeting attended, first time dining out en femme, first time flying en femme. For them, going out in public is Nirvana. Eventually they've done everything en femme, but they must keep going up the ladder. So they spend more and more time en femme. Finally, they pursue sexual reassignment surgery. Too late they find they have emerged into a prison without a door. What was once a macho game has become a permanent convulsion of their lives.

As deluding as is this siren of self, she has allies. Some transsexuals, unhappy themselves, spread to crossdressers this doctrine of destruction. Crossdressers, they say, are somehow incomplete without sexual reassignment. Nor are professionals always helpful. A few, out of financial self-interest, push crossdressers down the road to sexual reassignment. At best, the ethical majority of professionals have a hard order. Psychological testing, and requiring candidates for surgery to live two years in the crossgender



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role, are their chief screening methods. Still, these are not infallible. If the candidate tells the screener what he needs to hear, and can tough out the two years of crossgender living, he can reach the goal.

Everyone in our community should unite in efforts to eradicate the cruel problem of the "secondary transsexual". Spouses should strive to adopt a reasonable attitude toward crossgender expression. Realizing it is a facet of the person they love, they should set realistic limits and love their partner as a whole person. Helping professionals should screen thoroughly all candidates for sexual reassignment. If they diagnose secondary transsexualism, they should treat the psychopathology involved, and refuse referral for surgery.

The main responsibility for avoiding these personal and family tragedies rests, however, with the crossdresser. By their fruits he should recognize those who would lead him to destruction. He need not be misery's company. Single crossdressers, frustrated by lack of a female partner, should realize the destruction of their maleness is no solution to loneliness. Perhaps a self-improvement campaign - a broadening of interests - will help. Or perhaps they can look for a partner in different places. In any event, following their natural desire will probably be more fulfilling than pursuing a reconditioned orientation.

Too few crossdressers, whatever their marital status, consider the transgenderist alternative. Living full time need not be a way station to the operating room. By living part or full time in the opposite gender, the crossdresser may find himself in the most fulfilling of all possible worlds.

The crossdresser must realize that a fantasy retreat is no solution to life's problems. Anxieties and frustrations should be

Special Section

met head-on right where they are. Drawing on the support of his family, he will overcome life's problems more easily than he can alone. Never will a man have truer friends than his own family. Ponder the words in song of a loving partner:

"...Take time before you choose,
For I'll spend a lifetime
Just loving you.
So, Darling, think.
Darling,
THINK."

To Save A Family - 2

by Frances Fairfax

When my husband first told me he was a crossdresser (officially putting a label on behavior he had never tried to hide), I knew he wasn't homosexual or transsexual. I do remember the first question I asked him, though, which was, "Where is all this going to lead us? Does this mean that when we get old we'll retire together somewhere as two little old ladies?" His honest answer was, "I don't know, yet." He had just begun to explore the limits of "her" identity. Over the years since then his/her total personality has integrated and matured, and a healthy balance has been struck. I have long since come to the realization that both the masculine and the feminine personas are an integral part of the same unique individual I married. My question has not yet been answered, but in the most meaningful sense, it has - the answer no longer matters. I count myself blessed.

Recently, however, I have noticed that there are some crossdressers who have not achieved that degree of integration and balance. And,

there are wives not nearly so fortunate as myself. I am not talking here about wives who are hostile to their husbands' crossgender needs, who refuse to make the effort to understand and tolerate, let alone accept. I am talking about wives who have struggled to love and support their cross-dressing husbands, sometimes at considerable personal sacrifice. And yet, in spite of all their efforts, they end up losing their husbands to this rising tide of transsexualism.

At first, there was his euphoria when she agreed to accept "her", and even tried to help her look her best. But sooner or later the selfishness set in, the constant pushing against agree-upon limits, the racking up of more and more "points" in the great macho game of "passing", until all that was left for him was "the big one" - sexual reassignment surgery. Excuse me, but I was always told that the right to swing my arms ended where the other person's nose began. How quaint this seems in this "Me Generation" society, where selfish individualism rides rough-shod over the needs of others, even one's own children!

Now, let me make one point clear, before my transsexual friends start crying, "Foul!" I am not talking about the true

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transsexual, whose decision to seek sexual reassignment surgery can literally mean the difference between life and death. Certainly, seeing the person one loves undergo reassignment is preferable to seeing him dead of stress-induced disease or suicide.

I am talking here about the plain garden-variety crossdresser, the so-called "secondary transsexual", and for him to push forward his own perceived needs to the exclusion of his wife and children's is just plain selfish and wrong. At the very least, he should consider the wisdom of these ancient words: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." It may well be that what is now unthinkable because of one's commitments will become the right and logical thing to do some years on down the road.

And what does he lose by waiting? A few years of relative youth in which he could be enjoying the active pursuit of his fantasies? This is nothing in comparison with the lifelong suffering he will be inflicting upon his innocent children by abandoning them.

Remember when (not so long ago) a "real man" kept his word, honored his commitments, supported his family? O.K., so the crossgendered man wants to get away from that "real man" stuff, and become a "real woman". If he thinks being a "real man" is too hard, he obviously hasn't been in touch with the world of the "real woman". Guess what? Real women are expected to keep their commitments, too. The bottom-line standard of femininity and womanhood is caring, nurturing, and compassion for others, starting with family members and extending to the rest of the community. "Can a mother forget her children?" was the equivalent of "Can the sun fail to rise?"

No, becoming a "real woman" is not an escape from the "burdens" of being a "real man". If anything, it is the classic illustration of "Out of the frying pan, into the fire". The problem is, the secondary transsexual drags his family members into the fire with him. No one benefits in the long run, least of all the crossdresser himself. He has wrecked his family, his career, and his own body in pursuit of an elusive and spurious concept of femininity.

The "transsexual alternative" is no alternative at all. Certainly not for wives and families, and even less for crossdressers.

Boys R Us!

by: Susan Blume

Something very strange was happening in Houston, Texas. Could it be the Tri-Ess girls had started taking contra-feminine pills? Had they discovered a C.D. cure? Was this a synchronized mass chapter purge?

Well, what else was I to think as I observed five sisters having fun at the Bellaire Bowling Alley - all wearing "men's" clothes, calling each other by "male" names, nary a trace of make-up and nothing more feminine smelling than Mennen lime underarm stick?

I discreetly sashayed up close to the party - being ever so careful not to be noticed - and gingerly snatched what appeared to be some sort of honored invitation.

Totally baffled, as my waist cincher began to ride up my ribcage, I proceeded to read the following:

"CONGRATULATIONS!"

"You are among the first participants EVER to attend what we hope will become a very important facet of our organization and a very meaningful influence in our lives:

The BOYS R US Program
(Sponsored by Tau Chi
Chapter, Tri-Ess)

The goals are very simple —

1. Let's get to know each other as guys,
2. Let's enjoy expressing the masculine side, and
3. Let's encourage ourselves (and each other) to grow and develop as 'whole persons'."

This is pretty heavy stuff, I thought, just as "Susan" rolled a clean strike, turned, spotted me and yelled in a surprisingly masculine voice, "Hey, what are you doing here?"

"Why, Susan," I said, feigning surprise, "I could ask you the same."

"Shh! Don't call me 'Susan'! This is a 'Boys R Us' program, and tonight we're not using any feminine names or making any references to Tri-Ess."

"But what ever would possess you?" I queried.

"Don't you know," Susan said in typical male "know-it-all" fashion, "Tri Ess encourages its members to develop both the masculine and feminine personality components. It's very easy for us to allow the feminine side (suppressed so long) to grow and develop while the masculine side remains stagnant, or in fact, begins to diminish. This often leads to stifling the healthy development of the 'whole person'. So, a 'Boy's R Us' night out helps put things in proper perspective by enabling us to express and develop our masculine side, while getting to know and enjoy each other as 'whole persons'."

"But, Susan," I said, as I caught myself trying to remember not to call Susan, "Susan", "don't we have ample opportunity to express the masculine every day at work and every 'non Tri Ess' weekend?"

"Of course we do," Susan replied, "but the 'Boys R us' programs give us the chance to reaffirm our selves and others that we are happy with ourselves as men, husbands, and fathers, and, that our masculine component need not be suppressed in order to allow the feminine side to flourish."

"In fact, the true benefit of all the 'Boys R Us' programs — bowling, camping, softball, basketball, camping, poker games, and dinner parties with spouses, etc. - is to foster pride in being masculine, while recognizing that the feminine influence should enhance, rather than suppress, our development as secure, well adjusted, healthy, happy whole persons."

With that statement, we exchanged smiles, Susan - no make that BOB - returned to the lane to return a bowling ball.

As I left the bowling alley that night to drive home, I thought about the 'Boys R Us' program, the invitations, the Tri Ess members having fun together, and everything Susan said, and just then for some strange reason I would have traded my panty hose or two tickets to a Houston Oilers playoff game for more information on how to start a 'Boys R Us' program.

HOLIDAY EN FEMME 1991

Experiences Of A New Member

by Candace

In the summer of 1991, I decided to seek out a support group for Candace and I, a group that understands the feminine feelings and urgings that go on inside. To become a whole, wholesome person, we realized we needed help. One can't do it alone.

We found Tri-Ess through the Chicago Tribune. In November, 1991, the Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess put on the Holiday En Femme weekend. I decided to go with my significant other.

Knowing the turmoil inside me and the possibility of that weekend being of major significance in my life, I decided keep a journal of my feelings one week before the event and the weeks after. The following are the feelings expressed before, during

and after the Holiday En Femme weekend.

The decision was easy. The follow-through was another story. I realized that just as with other experiences, I would have extreme feelings, polarized feelings, at the There were the problems that long term dressing poses: the need to wear one outfit "all day"; the strain to be "in character"- "ladylike"- in appearance, mannerisms and behavior for a long period of time. Would I have the energy to do all that?

As the weekend approached, I became apprehensive. What about my personal security and anonymity? There was my vanity, too. How would I look? What would I do about an appropriate wardrobe, clothes that were comfortable, appropriate, tasteful and stylish?

Then, there were so many "bad" - "male"- idiosyncracies to overcome: picking my nose, hiking my clothes, and scratching.

I decided that the importance of attending the Holiday and its whole impact on who Candace and I were, would be in its leading to better relationships with others, especially with my significant other, Carol.

My goal was to learn to accept and

develop the feminine and integrate that side of me into the other, and to clinically "journal" my thoughts and feelings along the way. This could not only help me, but others as well, no matter their gender, and no matter where they might be in their individual journeys.

I call Naomi of Chi Chapter with a list of questions. She was gracious and patient. She allayed my dreads and fears. She said some of the "girls" looked better than the real thing, while others needed help.

We talked about nervousness. She said it would be all right. She told me to just be ladylike, dress up, look good and feel good, and I would blend in with the 180 others. "Above all," she said, "have fun!" The conversation calmed me for the moment.

I had to remember to let the repressed inner person come out, to allow her to expand and broaden her personality. "Be positive! Be happy! Look good! Relax and have fun!" I kept telling myself.

Finally it was the morning of our arrival!

I was nervous already. I had mentally arrived at the hotel and made my first entrance many times. I had to remember that "they" might not see what's really before them, only what they perceive. If only I could be confident, ladylike, and



Felicity (NY-1318-M), Tri-Ess' oldest sister



Naomi introduces Dr. Sandra Cole, moderator for wives' discussion group.

feminine, then they would see what I wanted them to see.

If I look like a duck, and I walk like a duck, I must be a duck. What a philosophy!

When I registered there were several "girls" there, and Rachel. I felt out of place, not dressed. I felt relieved. I felt I would fit in and be able to fade into the crowd.

I took a deep breath. Here we go!

We were ready to leave the room at 5:30PM. The big moment had arrived! I was transformed into a feminine looking being. The hard part was to deal internally with the feelings of "coming out of the closet". It was hard to deal with going out in public, and with being for three days a part of an unknown group, Tri-Ess.

The feelings were like being born, at 53 years of age, and being a debutante, all at the same time. Boom! Boom!

I said to myself, "Candace! Stand up straight. Be graceful. SMILE!"

We left the security of the room behind, walked down the corridor, and pushed the Down button. I felt a big rush of apprehension. Who would be in the elevator? The doors opened. To my relief, there was a young girl and another woman (a guy). Carol and I got on.

What a relief! Friendly people! Then the door opened and in entered two more crossdressers. One was three inches taller than I. She was at least 6'7" in heels. I wasn't the tallest!

The elevator doors opened on the main floor. In the lobby, I was amused. Some of the "straight" people were curious; some thought we were funny, but there was no disturbance. There before me was a variety of people, crossdressers of every size and shape and different facial features. Attire ranged from plain and simple to gaudy and out of place for the event and situation.

By selecting a simple black outfit with gold accessories, I blended in. I looked like what I was supposed to be - a woman going to a dinner/playhouse theater. I felt part of a larger whole and my apprehension ceased.

I just stood there and observed and started to get caught up in what I was a part of. This was really happening to me! It was not a dream, but real. WOW! My feelings were of really belonging, of being whole, with both sides accepted.

Both the male and the female

feelings were there, in that place. Some of us were more comfortable than others. We all had different images of ourselves. Most of us were average to good looking. Others, as Naomi put it, "needed help". And, in some cases, I could not tell the women from the crossdressers.

At the theater, we made our entrance, some 80 of us, both crossdressers and wives or significant others. We had to pass in front of those people already seated and in



Executive Director Carol Beecroft, Board Chairman Jane Ellen Fairfax

the middle of dinner. We didn't cause a stir. Most people were too interested in what they were about, to notice the "parade". Most only saw the entrance of a large gathering of women of all sorts of sizes and shapes. That's really normal. Some knew what we were, and it didn't really matter.

At the table, each of us told our story. Each of the other two said I was lucky to have a spouse who accepts and participates in Candace. I agreed.



Three very entertaining ladies....Eve of Chicago, Da'Nelle and Lynn of Denver

NOT different, but similar. There were a great many of us, both at the Holiday and "out there" in the world.

The feeling of belonging and of being understood was a relief and was welcomed. Also, being able to be unique, and at the same time to "pass" and fade into the crowd, was reassuring. I learned that I could crossdress regardless of my human condition.

Again, the emphasis and feelings were: Look good! Dress conservatively, with style. Feel good! Act like a lady. Be positive! Have fun!

On Friday, I was coaxed into getting a makeover. Jim Bridges told me to return in one hour. The makeover was performed during lunch. We all have to pay a price for being beautiful, and missing lunch was a small price to pay.

When the painting was complete, they gave me the mirror. I was stunned. I remarked, "Who is that, staring back at me in the glass?" It was a gorgeous face!

I looked like what I had aspired to be.

Inside, my feelings were mostly of ecstasy.

After the makeover, I walked past two longshoremen. They looked at me as though I were a good looking woman, and never even knew the difference. Their eyes told it all. They never doubted my femaleness.

If you have an aura of confidence and all of the other "femme" mannerisms, you will be treated with respect. Then the internal respect grows.

After the show on Saturday night, Allison and I went to the hotel lounge. Entering the lounge was startling. The eyes all looked. I felt like Elizabeth Taylor, making an entrance at the Academy Awards.

There were several men at the bar. Some of them really had a problem reconciling what they saw with their stereotyped values and the feelings inside. They stared in disbelief. Several crossdressers, seeing their distress, went over and talked to them. It didn't help. The disbelief and pain, inner pain, was still there.

We were joined by others. Again, we all had similar stories. I was asked if I would like to help in the Sunday worship service. I said I would be honored.

Wow! God our parent works and is always inclusive, and nurturing. Even in unexpected places and situations, as well as with strangers. Inside, I cried with joy at those unexpected nudges of love, God's love, from total strangers, who were very Christlike in spiritual values and more importantly, in behavior and actions.

I was accepted, understood, nurtured and loved. Sisterly love, by brothers - what a revelation! What joy! What a sense of belonging!

I felt that the integration

of the two inner parts of my being was beginning another transformative stage - the integration of both that will enable both to better and more appropriately function.

Again, the feelings of acceptance and belonging came. By this time, those positive feelings were constant and becoming natural - the rule, rather than the exception. The longing for companionship and people to associate with, became the norm.

The Awards were neat. Well deserving, hard working people received the recognition they richly deserved. Some award winners were national people, some in local chapters. The program ended with Naomi's soliloquy (a poem). She is a many talented person.

Then came Sunday. The overall experience was wonderful and uplifting. What they say is true! If you look good, you'll feel good. It's really true. Words can't describe the feelings inside that I have for myself, Carol, and the people I met and associated with during that time.

I believe that the God who created us all, loves us all. He always has and always will. It is only ourselves and our mindset that delays or denies us the fullness of her grace.

I thanked Kathy for the honor of participating in the worship service, and thanked God for her grace upon me, as Candace.

One of my most cherished desires was fulfilled that Sunday - to worship God as Candace. The leadership role was unexpected and will be cherished reverently forever.

God does work through us, regardless of who we are. Opportunities arise if we are honest, open and willing.

Imagine my being in that environment for the first time, meeting all those people, normal crossdressers, wives and significant others, Chi Chapter Sorority leaders and the National Board of Tri-Ess leaders.

Being invited to participate in a worship service, as a leader - was it a coincidence, or divine selection, or is there empathic bonding of feelings that transcends our common knowledge, and that others who

I Don't Understand...

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JoAnn Roberts, Ph.D.

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Vicki IN-3161-M*



Tri-Ess Board of Directors Meeting

11/23/91, Minutes

Present were the following:

Not present were:

divine selection, or is there empathic bonding of feelings that transcends our common knowledge, and that others who are more spiritual more readily perceive and transmit?

Whatever! Being able to worship God, our parent, with others of the Sorority was wonderful.

That weekend was something else again. The makeover created an illusion of grand beauty. I was NOT recognizable to myself. It gave me confidence, a mask of protection.

It will take time to describe the intensity and kinds of feelings I have experienced.

The makeover was like an emerging of a new self, for because of it I could be perceived differently than I am "nrmally", yet as I really am on the inside.

As Candace, perhaps I will be able to experience feelings and offer others opportunities for growth, understanding and spirituality beyond their usual capabilities.

We shall see.

(Ed. Note. Candace is a brand new sister who joined Tri-Ess in December 1991 because of the Holiday En Femme.

Carol Beecroft, Executive Director
Virginia Prince, Treasurer
Jane Ellen Fairfax, Chairman, Board of Directors
Naomi Owen, Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors
Donna Martin, Membership Director
Donna E. Mobley, Communications Director
Shirley K., Co-Director, Big Sister Program
Cynthia Phillips, Co-Director, Office of Wives and Partners Concerns
Frances Fairfax, Secretary, Board of Directors
Kathy Helms
Lynda Frank, Regional Coordinator, Region 1
Deanna Johns, Regional Coordinator, Region 5
Jennifer Higgins, Regional Coordinator, Region 2
Samantha Wells, Regional Coordinator, Region 4
Kymerleigh Richards
Patricia K., Co-Director, Big Sister Program, and Regional Coordinator, Region 6

Marlene L., Director of Chapter Development
Beverly Wayne
Joan Goodnight, Regional Coordinator, Region 7
Julie Alexander, Regional Coordinator, Region 3
Linda Peacock, Co-Director, Office of Wives and Partners Concerns
Karen Kent

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by **Jane Ellen Fairfax**.

Jane Ellen announced to the Board that a Tri-Ess member wishes to make a bequest to Tri-Ess. Jane asked the Board's authorization to proceed in this matter with the member's attorneys. Virginia so moved, and Kymerleigh seconded, and after some discussion the motion passed unanimously. On behalf of the Board and all of Tri-Ess, Jane Ellen expressed our gratitude to the benefactor.

Deanna was recognized and read into the Minutes the following statement:

"Virginia, Carol, Madam Chair, board members: greetings and good morning.

As most of us know, Tri-Ess has its origin stemming from 1961 when a brave Virginia Prince recognized the need for a support group

Also present were guests **Michelle Lee** (WA-2630-H) and **Robin** (TN-2493-K).

The Femme Mirror

for the heterosexual crossdresser - transvestite.

In 1976, Virginia merged her F.P.E. group with Carol Beecroft's Mamselle to create the present Sorority, the Society for the Second Self - Tri-Ess.

We (Tri-Ess) are advertising this weekend as the 17th annual occurrence of the event; therefore, I must believe that it originated as a function of Mamselle.

I attended my first **Holiday En Femme** in 1987 in San Francisco, and after asking permission, invited all to come to Chicago in 1988, as Chi Chapter would be host of the annual event. Prior to that, the **Holiday En Femme** rotated sites between San Francisco and New Orleans under the guidance of Carol Beecroft, who did all the work in developing, organizing, promoting and administrating its success and/or failure.

After Chi Chapter's success in hosting the **Holiday**, Carol passed her 'baby' into the trusting hands of Jane Fairfax of Houston and Diane Ingram of Phoenix. These brave souls attempted to conduct this affair in a city (San Francisco) many miles from their homes - but they succeeded, and the **Holiday En Femme** began to receive its respect.

Jane invited all of Tri-Ess to her home town of Houston for the 1990 **Holiday** and also invited the leaders and members of the sister support groups in the area to also attend - thus legitimizing Tri-Ess's role in the entire Gender Community.

After the 1988 **Holiday En Femme**, and the success of the first ever leadership meeting and discussions, a Board of Directors was created to assist Virginia and Carol in the administration of the National Sorority. The **Holiday** also took on an additional namer - Convention. Each year following, the **Holiday En Femme** conducted chapter development meetings and Board of Directors meetings.

When Chi Chapter began its planning for the 1991 **Holiday En Femme**, we looked back at what was successful - What the membership (attendees) asked for - and what made other weekend events a success. Besides a first-rate program, we found that those events that shared with their sister organizations demonstrated a cooperation that is impossible to achieve in any other manner.

Therefore, with my encouragement, we at Chi Chapter purposely left out the wording restricting attendance at the **Holiday En Femme** to Tri-Ess members only.

We, the Board, created an ambiguous category of 'Friends of Tri-Ess', and with this license, we of Chi Chapter felt at ease to 'open our arms' to our sisters and invite them to join our party.

Let me emphasize, we are not 'opening our

DOORS', just our ARMS.

Thank you."

Kathy proposed a procedural motion to save time; i.e., that discussion of any issue be limited to 20 minutes, with any person speaking for no more than three minutes, and no one to speak twice before others have had opportunity to speak.

K y m b e r l e i g h seconded, Virginia called the question, and the motion passed unanimously.

K y m b e r l e i g h moved that the Board pass on the reading of the Minutes of the previous Board Meeting.

This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Jane Ellen called for Reports.

Samantha reported on the status of the Tri-Ess Bylaws and Corporation. She has continued to work with an attorney in California to clarify Tri-Ess' status as a State of California Non-Profit Corporation. She stated that Tri-Ess' tax status is that of a fraternal organization, with an IRS designation of 501(c)(10), which is most appropriate to Tri-Ess' activities. She stated that there are both advantages and disadvantages in



Drs. Peggy and Melanie Rudd

this designation, and also in seeking 501(c)(3) status, which has also been proposed. Jane Ellen directed Samantha and Naomi to continue their work and report at the next meeting of the Board.

Virginia reported \$24,000 on account. (The complete **Treasurer's Report** for 1991 will appear in the next issue of the Mirror.)

Jane Ellen reported on **Chapter Formation**. In response to requests for assistance from leaders of Forming Groups, Jane Ellen prepared a Chapter Formation Kit. New Chapters are now forming in Seattle, Kansas City, Northern California/ Western Nevada, Memphis, and Huntsville. Jane Ellen traveled to California to



Keeping America Beautiful...Anthony, Jim Bridges, and Rachel.
Page 22



Robin (TN-2943-K) accepts first annual Tri-Ess Servant-Leader Award.

confer with Carol and Marlene. Marlene is issuing a Job Description for the Regional Coordinators for Chapter Development, and the Regional Coordinators are being sent updated Chapter Formation Kits for their use in guiding new chapters within their respective Regions.

Virginia reported that Alpha Chapter, after undergoing some difficulties, has reunited and is growing under Kymberleigh's able leadership.

Donna Martin, Membership Chairman, reported that Tri-Ess has over 1000 active dues-paid members at this time. Reinstatements are up, but Tri-Ess has averaged fewer new members. Donna reported that she gets more happiness and fewer complaints from members, who are pleased that they receive the Mirror on a regular basis. Donna stated that in the past, Tri-Ess largest membership gains have come when we have received national-level publicity such as television talk shows, or favorable coverage in major metropolitan newspapers. Also, she reported that of members that drop out of Tri-Ess, 50% do so in their first year. This led to discussion by the Board of how we can best serve the needs of these members during their critical first year. The consensus was that personal communications from other sisters are most encouraging to new

sisters, as demonstrated by the success of the Big Sister Program. Also proposed was a warm letter of welcome from the nearest Chapter. Carol informed the Board that chapter leaders will be receiving monthly lists of new members and drop-outs in their states, which will help in this process.

Kymberleigh moved that all new members be sent three letters a year from the National Offices.

Virginia seconded this motion.

Shirley Kay proposed that this letter-writing be incorporated into the Big Sister Program. This proposal was admitted as an amendment to Kymberleigh's motion, which passed unanimously.

Deanna reported on the status of the Membership Directory. She explained to the Board the many difficulties that have delayed this very important project, which is now projected to reach the member early in the spring of 1992. This edition will contain photos and profiles submitted, and all other members will be listed by femme name, code



Jane Ellen presents the Tri-Ess Community Service Award to Linda and Cynthia Phillips.

number, and city, as in the Mini-Directories. Deanna displayed sample listings for the Board's inspection. The Board thanked Deanna for stepping in to assist Rhonda with the Directory, and also discussed various proposals for Directory formats and funding in the future.

Jane Ellen reported that the Tri-Ess Information Brochure is being revised and updated by the ladies of Kappa Beta Chapter, with assistance from Ruthann of Wisconsin, who wrote



Let's hear it for Tri-Ess!!!

Jane Ellen reported that the Big Sister Program is working well after one year of existence. How it will affect the drop-out rate among new sisters will soon become apparent. Jane reported that she and Frances have transferred the Big Sister Program to Patricia and Shirley K. of Denver, who will serve as its new coordinators.

Jane Ellen reported on the Tri-Ess National Advertising Campaign. This began with a proposal made by Sue at California Dreamin' earlier this year. Sue had pointed out the need to advertise Tri-Ess in other gender community publications, and volunteered to answer the resulting correspondence herself. As a result, Tri-Ess now has reciprocal advertising arrangements with several other publications, and plans to expand to local and national mainstream as well as gender community periodicals. Naomi pointed out that Chi Chapter's listing in the Chicago Tribune, which runs free in a listing of community service organizations, has resulted in a number of new members, some of whom were in attendance at the Holiday En Femme as she spoke. Jane Ellen also commended the Boulton and Park Society, who have produced a small Tri-Ess pamphlet that is already proving a valuable outreach tool.

Jane Ellen then opened the floor for New Business.

Virginia pointed out the need to develop a comprehensive Budget for Tri-Ess, based on projected income and expenses over the fiscal year. Tri-Ess has always operated on a pay-as-we-go basis, with those responsible for the different services submitting funding requests and invoices to Virginia for payment. With the new programs now in operation and others proposed, Virginia stated that a formal budget would be advisable. After some discussion the Board agreed that this was desirable and asked Virginia to draw up a preliminary budget for consideration by the Board at its next meeting.

Virginia then brought up for discussion a Proposal that Tri-Ess determine some methods of assisting financially those National Officers whose income is limited, in order to enable them to attend the Board Meetings at the Holiday En Femme. Those eligible would be the five members of the Executive Committee and the Editor of the Femme Mirror. Virginia proposed that a special fund be established for this purpose. Kathy proposed that this fund be subsidized by the Holiday En Femme registration fees, rather

than membership dues. Kathy also proposed that those Board Members and others in Tri-Ess who travel extensively donate unused Frequent Flyer miles to the Board Members needing them. Cynthia pointed out that there is also a need for assistance to those who travel to speaking engagements, since there are many poorer members who are great speakers but cannot afford to travel. Lynda offered to help by coordinating any donated Frequent Flyer miles through her travel agency. Naomi mentioned that hotels hosting large conventions such as the Holiday usually "comp" a certain number of rooms, which can be made available to those needing them.

Kymberleigh then moved that the Board accept Lynda's offer of assistance in regard to Frequent Flyer miles. This was seconded, and unanimously approved.

Deanna moved that all future Holiday En Femme registration fees be waived for Carol and Virginia. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

Naomi further moved that Carol and Virginia be reimbursed their registration fees for this Holiday. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

In further discussion the Board agreed that the six positions, not specific individuals, be eligible for reimbursement of travel and meeting expenses. Kathy pointed out that non-profit organizations can legally reimburse their officers and board members' expenses 100% if they wish and funds are available.

Naomi moved that a Travel Fund be established, to be disbursed at the discretion of Jane Ellen, with a maximum stipend of \$100.00 for any one Officer and an annual maximum of \$600.00. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

Jane Ellen next brought up the matter of the Tri-Ess Sorority Pins currently being offered for sale by Alpha Zeta Chapter. She pointed out that these pins were first designed and produced at Tri-Ess National's expense in conjunction with the 1987 Holiday En Femme. The project was initiated by Diane Ingram of Alpha Zeta Chapter, Holiday En Femme Co-Coordinator at that time, and the die used remained in Arizona in storage at the manufacturer. Recently Alpha Zeta Chapter has caused more pins to be made and is marketing them as a fund-raising project for the chapter. There was considerable discussion by the Board

of such issues as authorizing use of the Tri-Ess logo on merchandise by Alpha Zeta or any other chapter, and whether Tri-Ess National should arrange to market or otherwise distribute these pins in quantity on the national level. Kathy pointed out that non-profit organizations may sell such items, but all profits must go into funding of the groups' stated purposes (an Education Fund, Development Fund, or Travel Fund, for example). Finally, the Board unanimously passed a motion authorizing Alpha Zeta Chapter to use the Tri-Ess logo in the form of the Sorority pins, and to manufacture and market the Sorority Pins as historical items. The Board reserved the right of Tri-Ess to design and manufacture other merchandise bearing its logo as a National project, including official Tri-Ess Sorority Pins of a different size or design from those offered by Alpha Zeta Chapter. The Board also asked Jane Ellen to appoint a committee to

Winter 1992

Tri-Ess BBS

Access the Tri-Ess BBS at
(404) 922-2414 or (404) 785-9216.

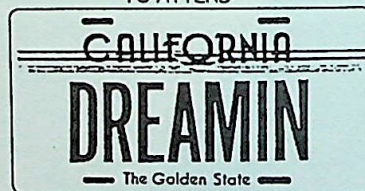
Log on as

NAME? Sigma Epsilon

PASSWORD? Tri-Ess

Use a two word name and a 5 to 8 character password. Within 24 hours your name and password will be entered into the user list. There is no requirement to give any personal information. The board is open to anyone interested in gender topics.

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formulate a more comprehensive national merchandising policy. Donna Mobley moved that the Board draft a letter to all chapters, stating that all future use of the Tri-Ess logo on anything other than letterheads and newsletters must be approved in advance by the Board of Directors. This motion was passed unanimously.

Cynthia brought up the need for improved communications on all levels, especially the national, in regard to speaking engagements and media appearances. She described her and Linda's appearance on a Los Angeles area television show which they discovered too late had not been properly "checked out". After some discussion Virginia moved that as a matter of policy no one representing Tri-Ess should appear on television or radio if anything other than crossdressing and Tri-Ess is being featured. This motion failed to pass. In further discussion Donna Mobley proposed that Tri-Ess establish a National Speakers Bureau. Kathy moved that the Board set up a committee consisting of Cynthia, Donna Mobley, Virginia, Carol, Naomi and Jane Ellen to formulate policy on the national level for approval by the Board at its next meeting. At the urging of Patricia, Kathy amended her motion to include the appointment of Donna Mobley as the single point of contact to coordinate all media appearances, at least until such national policy is established. Donna Mobley emphasized that those appearing on local or national media need to inform her so that a log can be kept. This motion passed as amended.

Donna Martin pointed out that some wives who are Tri-Ess members have expressed the

desire for membership numbers which would be completely different from their husbands'. Donna was authorized to create a new membership numbering sequence specifically for wives.

Kymerleigh moved that the Board table any discussion of a proposed "picture fee" for the Membership Directory until the next meeting of the Board. This passed unanimously.

Also passing unanimously was formal authorization by the Board for the Executive Committee to operate and decide matters of routine business between the regular meetings of the full Board.

Tabled until the next Board Meeting was discussion of a proposed revision of the Tri-Ess Pledge.

Jennifer then moved that rather than scheduling Board Meetings in conjunction with the IFGE annual convention in April of each year, the Board schedule a mid-summer, mid-continent two-day Board Meeting which would not be associated with any convention. After some discussion of the relative merits of each meeting time, the motion passed.

Jane Ellen announced the resignations of Karen Kent and Julie Alexander from the Board.



Happy 79th, Virginia!!

Appointed to replace them were Linda Peacock, current President of Sigma Epsilon Chapter and Co-Director of the Office of Wives and Partners Concerns, and Michelle Lee of Seattle, President of the newly formed Omega Alpha Chapter. Also, Robin K. of Tennessee was appointed to assume Julie's duties as Regional Coordinator for Region 3.

Jane Ellen stated that the 1992 Holiday En Femme will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, and hosted by Sigma Epsilon Chapter. She informed the Board that several chapters were offering to host the 1993 Holiday. After some discussion, a motion was passed choosing Delta Chapter of Denver, Colorado, as the host chapter for the 1993 Holiday.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Naomi presents a special gift to a very special lady, Dr. Sheila Kirk.
Page 25

Newsletter Editors:

Please send a copy of each edition of your newsletter directly to the FEMME MIRROR, c/o Jane Ellen Fairfax, P.O. Box 1105, Alief, TX 77411-1105. We would like permission to reprint letters and articles from your publication which are of interest and significance to our readers. We promise to give proper credit for anything we print.

Many Thanks.....

-MIRROR Staff

Holiday En Femme Keynote Address by Chairman of the Board of Directors: Jane Ellen Fairfax:

On The State of Tri-Ess, 1991

The year 1991 has been for Tri-Ess one of intense activity. Progress has been made in fulfilling our promises to our members. Dynamic new chapters are springing up everywhere. An unsuspected reserve of dedicated workers has emerged. There are, however, a number of areas on which we need to expend determined effort. While the dropout rate is far less than before, so is recruitment. The vision for wives' and partners' services is only now taking shape. Tri-Ess is becoming a community, in which groups of members in chapters are implementing programs for the benefit of all Tri-Ess sisters. To implement these programs and diversify its services, Tri-Ess is making the journey from the mine to the refinery. The dross of "talkers" is being poured off, leaving the steel of "doers". Although this process necessitates trial and error, and requires patience of the membership, the end result will be a stronger Tri-Ess well into the 21st Century.

Tri-Ess makes two basic promises to its members. Every Tri-Ess member receives four issues yearly of the Femme Mirror. Since Tau Chi Chapter of Houston, Texas, took on this project in 1989, their staff workers have not only published the Mirror in timely fashion, they have dramatically upgraded it. In November of 1990, Jennifer of Alpha Omega Chapter polled the membership on the vision for the Mirror.

Giving an overwhelming "thumbs down" to fantasy fiction, the members expressed a desire for more human interest stories, news from chapters and from Tri-Ess National, and articles on feminine arts and skills. Jeanette Johnson and her staff responded promptly. No longer would the Mirror be just another crossdressers' magazine, it would become a periodical for "special women". This vision is already bearing much fruit, as exemplified by such articles as the Jane Teske story and Dr. JoAnn Roberts' article on communication between the sexes. Soon we will again be polling our members to build the Mirror to make it what our members want it to be.

The other basic program for the membership is the Directory. At this time the Directory project is assigned to Chi Chapter and is in the capable hands of Rhonda, and Deanna Johns. If Deanna's formats are any indication, the upcoming Directory, which should be published early in 1992, will be by far the most professional Tri-Ess has ever produced. Given the abundant womanpower and creative talent of Chi Chapter, the Directory will know continuity and regularity. After the first issue, subsequent issues will be easier to publish. Entering the data base has proved a monumental task, and there have been delays. No longer, however, will Carol Beecroft have to plead several times for members to

submit updated profiles and send pictures. Members will be given an opportunity to update their Directory listings and a clear deadline for so doing. If they fail to modify their profiles, the old profiles will simply be dated and used. Result - a more complete Directory. Once the first Directory is published, we will consider how to work updates so that new members can be quickly included. Perhaps this can be done through the Mirror. Time and routing problems will need to be

worked out. Under the able ladies of Chi Chapter, however, one can be sure that the Directory will soon become one of the strongest services of Tri-Ess.

Not only is Tri-Ess updating its basic services, but dynamic new visions are becoming realities. Consider the haunting words of Christine in Phantom of the Opera:

"Beautiful creature of darkness -

What kind of life have you known?

God, give me courage to show you

You are not alone!"

Once, all of us, like the Phantom, lived in the darkness of fear, sadness, and shame. Unlike the Phantom, however, our ugly mask is only an illusion. Simply will to take it off, and the face of a beautiful, gentle, and sensitive creature of God emerges out of the darkness and into the light. For many, however, the disfiguring mask clings tightly. Troubled deeply by the difficulty in reaching these creatures of darkness and beauty, Tri-Ess conceived a vision of a Big Sister Program in which experienced members would serve new sisters as one-on-one sisterly support. Not only would they help with crossdressing problems, they would be listening ears and caring hearts. A year ago we published in the Mirror the vision, and the invitation to Tri-Ess sisters to make it into reality. The sisters of Tri-Ess responded with an inspiring revelation of pent-up energy of caring. So far, eighty sisters have served as Big Sister volunteers. Over 300 new Tri-Ess sisters have been offered one-on-one support. In the quiet of evening I love to ponder the wonderful stories of love that have unfolded before my eyes, and the caring human beings I've met in the process. The gratitude of the solitary new member to her Big Sister 1000 miles away. The Big Sister requesting more new sisters to support because she abhors an empty mailbox. And, perhaps most of all, the new sisters who, grateful for the caring they have known, have volunteered to give back to others the love they have received.

At the 1991 California Dreamin' I was unable to attend the first evening's event, but my wife Frances was there. When she returned she said, "I met a sister named Sue



Jane Ellen delivers Keynote Address.

from California, and, girl, does she have a lot to say to you!" Her voice held a large quantity of "Uh, oh!" so I looked forward to the meeting with some trepidation. Little did I realize that I was about to meet another Christine. Nest day Sue informed me that Tri-Ess needs to do much more to reach out to sisters in the darkness. Recalling the days before her own emergence, Sue said, "I will do anything to help those who are where I was." If Tri-Ess were willing to mount a campaign to advertise in every possible publication in the bigender community, she would not only join and promote Tri-Ess, she would do the correspondence. With generous help from Sue, Linda and Cynthia Phillips, and Frances, we devised an advertising package and cover letters. We've begun an ad exchange with other publications in the community. JoAnn Roberts did even more. When I opened her latest publication I found our ad emblazoned in red, white and blue. Already, Sue has received about 30 letters of inquiry about Tri-Ess, and is busily answering them. With the help of its chapters, Tri-Ess will eventually expand this outreach to local publications of the bigender and gay communities, and to helping professionals.

Sue had an excellent package to send to inquirers, but it would be even better with a formal pamphlet. Enter another Christine - to be more precise, three Christines. Tere Frederickson of the Boulton and Park Society

has devised a series of pamphlets covering a variety of subjects of interest to the community. Already these pamphlets are in great demand in bigender organizations. Tere and the Phillipses devised an outstanding pamphlet on behalf of Tri-Ess. Utilizing technology, they made the pamphlet flexible enough to do many jobs. The original is being used as an outreach tool for Tri-Ess at the Texas "T" Party. Modify the back panel to include the Pledge and a space to list local chapters, and it can be used by Sue's National Advertising Campaign, as well as a communication tool for every Tri-Ess chapter. Tere Frederickson has asked our community to take the word "ME" and turn the "M" upside down to get the much more powerful word "WE". Her efforts with this outreach pamphlet are a sterling example of "WE" in action.

The word "WE" comes into play also in Tri-Ess' teamwork with wives. Tri-Ess can be proud of its pioneering role in admitting wives as full members. And the wives have responded; sixty-one have joined Tri-Ess National, and many more actively participate on the local level than formerly. We cannot, however, rest on our laurels. Cynthia Phillips has been publishing quarterly the WACS newsletter for wives and partners. To define the vision and discover what wives need from Tri-Ess, Linda Peacock has sent out an extensive questionnaire. Wives have already proved their staunch loyalty to the family-oriented principle for which Tri-Ess stands. It is for Tri-Ess to return that loyalty and caring.

Where has Tri-Ess been this year? Into chapter development, for one thing. The family-oriented concept is catching the imagination of new group leaders. New Tri-Ess chapters have sprung up in Western Nevada, Kansas City, Memphis, Alabama, and Washington State. All these groups are headed by able leaders. To help them get started, Tri-Ess has established an eleven-item Chapter Formation Kit detailing information on programs, bylaws, outreach, and general problem-solving. Marlene has taken firm control of the chapter formation process, and Carol has been busy traveling to visit chapters around the country. The Regional Coordinators for Chapter



Dr. Melanie Rudd accepts Chapter of the Year Award on behalf of Tau Chi.

Development are being sent the Kits and a thorough job description. Chapter development takes writing letters and conversing by telephone to share with new leaders ecstatic highs and crushing lows. It takes caring.

Tri-Ess has been in the news. The Salt Lake City Tribune, the Houston Post, and the Fresno Bee have all covered Tri-Ess chapters in 1991. Last week's issue of Woman's World magazine included a sympathetic article on Tri-Ess from the viewpoint of wives. Tri-Ess is enjoying increased clout in public education, not just in written, but also in visual media. The Phillipses, Melanie and Peggy Rudd, Donna Mobley and others have appeared on local and national television shows in New Mexico, Louisiana, Ohio, New York and Los Angeles. For almost the first time the subject of crossdressing is being treated, not as a flashing sensation, but as a serious subject. You can be proud that your Tri-Ess, by its conservative, non-threatening message, has been in the vanguard of public education in 1991.

Tri-Ess has come a long way this year. But where is it going? In 1992 and beyond, the chapters of Tri-Ess will become its crown jewels. Tri-Ess has grown too much to be run any longer as a "Mom and Pop"



Naomi accepts the Tri-Ess Lifetime Service Award.

The Femme Mirror

organization. As Nancy Cole has taught us, we need to replace our masculine, vertical organization with a feminine system like Charlotte's Web. By networking and building relationships we will accomplish much. Information will flow, not from top to bottom but around. Captains no longer, the leaders will become facilitators. Our new vision requires working together. The chapters will become the main vehicle by which the "ME" will be replaced by "WE". Projects will be assigned to chapters, where womanpower exists to get the job done. The results of this increased cooperation will be apparent in increased bonding among our members and chapters, and improved services for all of us. Every one of us enjoys a quarterly *Femme Mirror* because Tau Chi Chapter sisters have the drive and initiative to publish it and strive to improve it. Tri-Ess members will be able to communicate with each other because Chi Chapter cares enough to publish the Directory. Outreach will bring new members to all chapters, because Kappa Beta Chapter is updating our National Information Brochure. Every new sister will have one-on-one support because Delta Chapter will operate the Big Sister Program. Media outreach will light darkened lives because Alpha Rho Chapter will provide us with an up-to-date press packet that every chapter or interested individual can use. Tri-Ess will become more responsive to the needs of its members because Alpha Omega Chapter will keep its fingers on the pulse of the membership to determine what our members need and feel. I challenge every Tri-Ess chapter to become a part of this vision. Do your members have a special goal they would like to see Tri-Ess accomplish? Share it! Do they have a special skill that could be used to the benefit of all? Volunteer it! Does your chapter have a vision for a needed project? Roll up your blouse sleeves and get to work! "ME" can do very little, but "WE" can do a lot!

So much remains to be done. Tri-Ess needs to improve drastically its communications with its chapters, and chapters must understand that communication requires give as well as take. Next year Carol will again publish the *Clarion* for communication among chapter leaders, national officers, and regional chapter coordinators. If the *Clarion* works as it should, chapter leaders will be able to share questions and hints on programs, and work together to solve problems. By cooperation we will all grow.

Tri-Ess badly needs a meaningful outreach to helping professionals. Our members are tired of paying to teach counselors about crossdressing. Studying crossdressing from the viewpoint of sexual perversion is fishing for rainbow trout in the sewer. We need to find competent researchers who will cast their nets for schools of knowledge in the clear rivers of personality development. Knowledge about crossdressing is to be found in areas above, not below, the waist. Since we are "special women", why not undertake studies comparing us with natural women, and with a group of non-crossdressing males as a control group? As the nets begin to bulge with positive knowledge, the focus of research will rise from the sewer. Researchers, like most people, go where the fish are - or at least, where the grants are. Grants, in turn, go mostly to studies that make significant contributions to knowledge.

And there is yet another challenge facing Tri-Ess. In the past year a blight has descended upon the bigender community. Some crossdressers have looked at crossgender expression as a series of ranks to be accomplished. This approach is a gingerbread house, inside which is the surgeon's knife. Please understand that this has nothing to do with true transsexualism. It is the ultimate in selfish, macho behavior. Unfortunately, this plague is abetted by some misery-loves-company types, some professionals who should know better, and some wives who make no effort to understand or accommodate their husbands' need for feminine self-expression. Secondary transsexualism ultimately brings little happiness to those caught in its toils. Many of us are becoming increasingly familiar with the moonstruck expression that accompanies the statement, "I've been living a lie." After sexual reassignment surgery these people will learn what it is like to be locked in a lie for the rest of their lives on earth. We are hearing the cries of anguish from women who have lost the man they love, and seeing the tears of children abandoned by the Daddy they need. Articles from wives and discerning crossdressers are flooding the *Mirror*. As a family-oriented organization, Tri-Ess will take up their cry and devote every effort to stopping this sad mutilation of people and of innocent families.

The year 1991 will be a year of emphasizing increased communication, and

responsiveness of Tri-Ess to its members. Carol and Virginia will be available for visiting chapters. No longer will the National be something remote that we're all required to join. It will, instead, be a living entity enriching the lives of its members and chapters. The road of the future will be paved by increased caring at all levels. We will find the "can do" people with the skills to get the work done. Perhaps in the near future we can dare to speak of Tri-Ess Pride. Pride in our family-oriented concept, which sells so well that others are trying to imitate it. Pride in our gentle personalities, set free from macho. Pride in many people reached and helped. Pride in a job well done. Whether Tri-Ess can achieve its lofty goals is up to each one of you. Are you up to the challenge?

New Research Projects

Two new research projects are being conducted at this time, that are particularly valuable to our community. One will provide data for a master's thesis by Diane Wysocki, former owner of "Boys Will Be Girls" lingerie and a long-time friend of our community. Please write her for a questionnaire:

Diane Wysocki
Dept. of Sociology
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

A second project promises to be the biggest yet, involving professionals both "outside" and within the gender community, and will be published in a professional journal. A copy is included in this issue of the *Mirror*, or, write:

The Boulton & Park Society
P.O. Box 700042
San Antonio, TX 78270-0042

Computer users may download the survey from GenderLine of the Human Sexuality Forum on CompuServe Information Service (GO HSX-200, Section 9 Library), Cross-Connection BBS (818-549-0529), or Boulton & Park's BBS, "The Other Side" (512-545-4888).

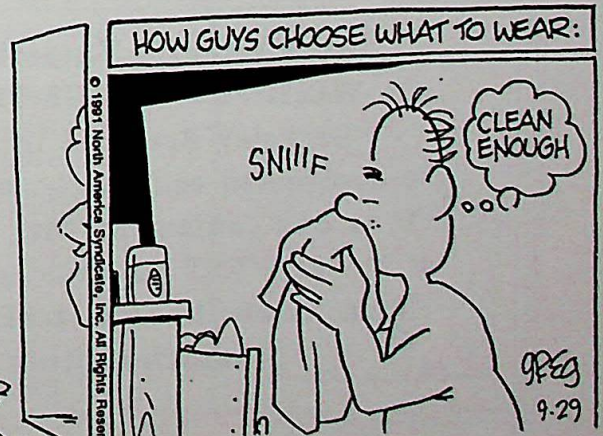
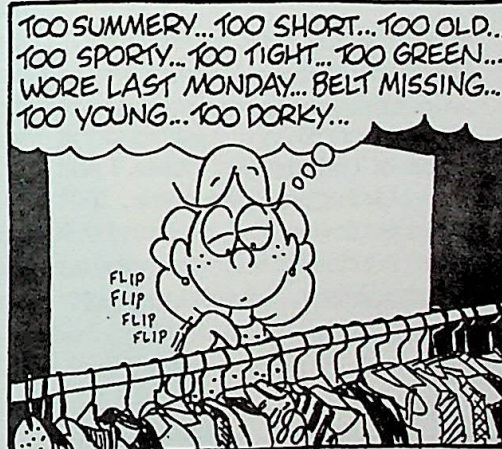
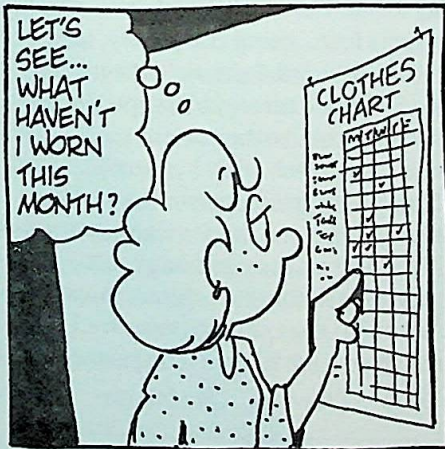
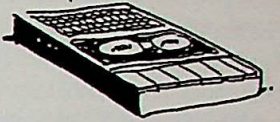
Sisters, this is your chance to make your voice heard in the scientific community. Your security will be absolutely respected. Respond today!

Luann

by GREG EVANS

DEAR DIARY:

WELL, I CHOSE AN OUTFIT TO WEAR TOMORROW AND IT ONLY TOOK ME...



Letters To The Editor:

Dear Carol,

I would like to thank all of the people who give so much of their time to make Tri-Ess the successful organization it is. When I receive a new copy of the Femme Mirror I read and re-read it until I almost memorize it. I think it improves with each issue.

-Betty

(TX-3184-C)

Ed. Note: Thanks for them kind words!

Dear Jeanette,

I wish to concur with a point you made in the "A Few Words..." article in the Fall issue. About half-way down, right under your picture, in fact, you referred to the fantasy world we too often live in, concluding with, "I must admit the Femme Mirror is partially to blame in not speaking out more forcefully in the past."

While my Tri-Ess membership is still fresh, I've been disturbed by the prominence that ways of acting out our fantasies has had in your editorial matter. Jeanette, we do not need the Femme Mirror to feed our fantasies. On the contrary, I need the Femme Mirror to speak out on the fallacy of our fantasies, the

facts we need to face, and the relationships with all of our significant others we must always maintain and nurture, in spite of our failings.

I know God has a plan for my life and has equipped me to carry it out. I can do nothing to change it, but, by my actions, I can put off or even cancel reaching the goals He has set.

We all fight obsessions which divert us, not only CD or TV. But, you can help greatly. Please keep our eyes on the facts, not on the fantasies.

My love and encouragement to your staff.

Corey OH-3364-W

Thanks, Corey. Take a look at the Editor's page in this issue..... Eds.

Dear friends,

I just celebrated my first anniversary as a member of Tri-Ess. (Yes, Donna, I paid my dues.) It has been quite a year. Talk about ups and downs. The year started with me hiding in a closet or bathroom to read my first Femme Mirror. I dressed about once

every 3 to 4 months. Then in January, I went to school in Washington, D.C., for five months; the adventure began. In that period, I attended the T-Party, attended 4 or 5 Delta Chi meetings and had a harrowing experience with the Military Police while dressed. It was a wild five months. Now I'm separated, living alone, and back to not dressing. I'll explain why later. But, it has been an interesting year: fun, exciting, scary and depressing. I would like to share part of my year with you, as I learned quite a bit.

There was an article in the Spring Femme Mirror, entitled "Friday Morning, 3AM". It had a tremendous impact on my life. It really got me thinking. I read the article toward the end of my five month "wild" period. Before I left for school my wife and I were not getting along. The arguments were loud and numerous; the topics varied, but the underlying cause was my crossdressing. My wife found it perverted. Anyway, I remember a feeling of fear crept into my stomach as I read the article. You all know the feeling I'm talking about. The article clearly articulated my biggest fear ...being completely, utterly alone. I read the article, again and again and again, probably 20 times. All I kept thinking was — that could be me!!

That article caused me to think. What was the number one thing I wanted out of life? Was it crossdressing? Was it acceptance? Or, the love of a woman? The

CD

By Sherri Belmar

In a recent T.V. special titled "A WISH FOR WINGS THAT WORK" Berkeley Breathed included a crossdressed cockroach as a character. It is our contention that only persons of the LOWEST possible mentality could find humor in such a SLANDEROUS characterization.....

Hey...is this where the Ms. CD Roach pageant's being held ???



decision was easy — I wanted to be loved. Up to three years ago I had a good marriage and a woman who loved me. She just couldn't handle a husband in a dress. I became determined to stop crossdressing and make my marriage work. I moved home in June after purging all my stuff (OK — most of my things). I vowed to make it work. I went to a therapist.

Without going into the boring details, a bandage on a gaping wound doesn't work. It was too late. The sparks were gone. We just didn't love each other anymore; too much had happened. After a couple of months, I moved out. Lawyers got involved and it got ugly, more than I could have imagined. It ended with her lawyer telling me that he would deliver certain photographs to the military authorities, if I didn't agree to 100% of their demands. Obviously, I agreed and was "raped". The incident convinced me that I cannot participate in my "hobby" until I leave the military. (We only worked out the separation agreement; I can hardly wait for the divorce proceedings.) I guess I'm lucky that I'm a CD and not a TS. I really enjoy dressing but my inner drive is not to be a woman. So, it's easier to stop for a couple of years.

I know this letter is long, but I'm just getting to the most important part. So, hang in there. I am still scared to death that I will be alone...forever. I want, desire; no, I need female companionship. Being shy, and not good at the singles scene, I wrote to several women in the local singles magazine. I also put in an ad. Anyway, to make a long story shorter, I have met seven women (and here's the important part). Five of the women told

me I was special. I was not like other men. I'm more caring, understanding and easier to talk to. I seem to understand them better than other men do. It was the parts of me that you, my TS/TV/TG/CD friends, helped me to discover — that made me more attractive to women. Just to keep the record straight — these are attractive, intelligent women. It still surprises me. Who would have thought? It is my feminine qualities that make me a more attractive male.

I am friends with several of the women. They call me, I call them, we talk, laugh, joke and occasionally date. I really don't know how to put it in words, but let me try. I have learned to enjoy them as friends. Who knows? Romance and love may follow. But, I am not alone; I have female friends.

I still have not dressed since June. I miss my many friends and long to dress, especially living in San Antonio with Linda and Cynthia Phillips and the rest of that fantastic crowd. It is hard to resist. I know it was a long letter, but I just had to share my feelings and thoughts with you. By the way, I still think that "Friday Morning, 3AM" was a great article. But what is more important is:

Don't despair, what you're learning about your femme side today — will make you a more attractive ~~man~~ person tomorrow.

Love to all,
Debbie TX-3143-H

Debbie,
Take it from an old retired "Blue Suiter" you are wise to be super discreet if you want a military career. Jaye

Dear Jeanette,

First off, I would like, once again, to congratulate both you and the crew for a couple of wonderful Femme Mirrors that I have received in the past months. I really enjoyed reading all the articles, especially my letter and the story that I submitted. It was very thrilling to see my name in print.

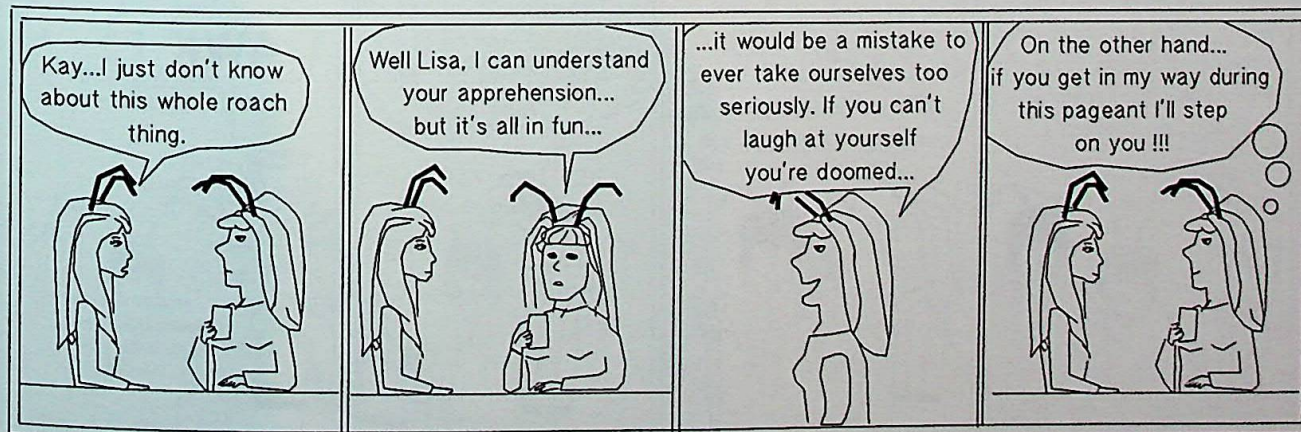
I'm starting to go out as my femme self now. In fact, I've gone out twice in the past week. I've gone for rides in my car and also gone to the post office. I've been seen by both men and women and even had a gentleman hold a door open for me! I haven't been read yet (as far as I know) and I now take advantage of any opportunity to go out.

I have a couple of questions. First, when is the Directory going to be out? I am very anxious to contact sisters in my age group (18 - 25). Next, what are the chances of the Femme Mirror being published six times a year instead of four? I would really enjoy receiving a magazine every other month instead of having a long wait between issues.

Well, I hope this letter finds you well. Keep up the good work, and I hope to receive the next Femme Mirror soon.

Jennifer
IA-3217-B

Jennifer,
Maybe you can get your new (old) Governor over there to donate some of the



The Femme Mirror

proceeds from his frequent trips to Las Vegas so Tri-Ess could afford to pay the Editors a full time salary so we could publish a monthly Mirror. Jeanette says for a \$100,000.00 a year she can close down her construction business and do this full time. I could too.

Seriously, the Tri-Ess budget just couldn't stand the cost. We already drive Virginia wild with the cost of publishing four editions a year.

See the "Directory Update" elsewhere in this issue.

Jaye

Dear Jeanette,

As have many others, I wish to commend you and your staff on the wonderful job you are doing with the Femme Mirror. I look forward to each issue and read it from cover to cover. The Fall 1990 issue was particularly meaningful to me. I enjoyed the feature article, "Understanding Comes Before Acceptance", by Virginia Prince, and as usual, the letters to the editor. The letter from Karen Kay, "A Concerned Sister Writes", and the response by Jane Ellen Fairfax, were both well-written and thought-provoking. They made me think about my own situation and what Tri-Ess has meant to me.

My history as a crossdresser is similar to many others. I began dressing as a child but it did not become intense until my late 20's. By my early 30's I had progressed to dresses, wigs, and makeup; even venturing out once. Unfortunately, the guilt and depression that went along with crossdressing

also progressed to the point that I sought the help of a psychiatrist. That was helpful with respect to guilt and depression but not with crossdressing.

At about this time I met and married my second wife. From the beginning she has truly been my best friend and the love of my life. I was afraid to tell her about my crossdressing before we were married. About three months after our wedding, I became so overwhelmed by guilt and the need to crossdress, that I had to tell her. It was difficult for both of us and she did not want to have to deal with it. We both had counseling in a university program for TV's and TS's. I also went through purges and relapses. I simply could not make crossdressing go away.

I then heard about Tri-Ess and the concept of accepting my crossdressing. I discussed this with my wife and we both felt it was worth a try. That was over five years ago. I have read the Femme Mirror and other literature about crossdressing such as My Husband Wears My Clothes by Dr. Peggy Rudd. I have tried to improve myself by self-education and have talked to my wife as well. This has resulted in more acceptance of my crossdressing by me and by my wife. Both of us still have a long way to go, though. This is a dynamic process without a defined end point. I need both my wife and Tri-Ess to continue making progress.

Tri-Ess has also helped my wife to accept my crossdressing. My wife, like some other wives of Tri-Ess members, does not wish to be a member of Tri-Ess. Membership of wives and SO's who do wish to join Tri-Ess

will, I believe, only improve Tri-Ess as an organization, and help all crossdressing members. I sympathize with all crossdressers who do not have a supportive wife or SO, because I know how much that support can mean. If it is not available at home, then perhaps they can share some with wives and SO's of sisters at chapter meetings. In doing so, they will benefit the wives and SO's of their sister crossdressers.

Sincerely,

Linda IL-2156-T

Linda,

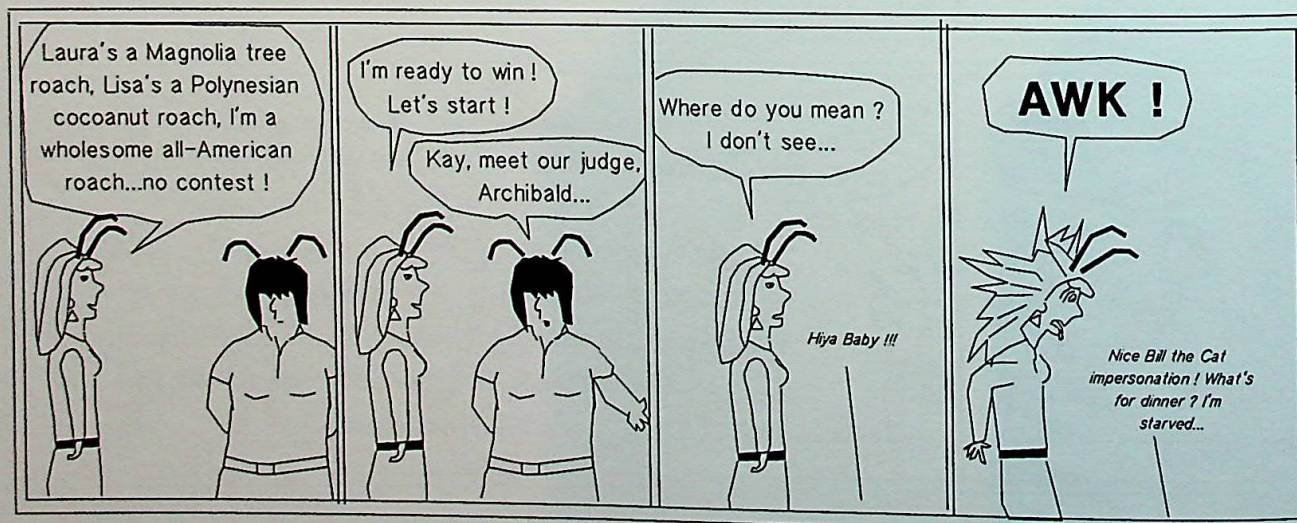
Your experiences as a newly emerging "butterfly" are about the same as are those of most others. You are exceptionally fortunate in being married to a very special lady. Keep working together to integrate a wholesome, positive, and realistic crossdressing into your lives. I believe you will be richly rewarded in terms of happiness and contentment as a couple if you do.

Jaye

Dear Editor,

It was wonderful to read Carol's "Executive Director's Page" in the last Femme Mirror. It's always nice to receive acknowledgement for one's efforts. In the case of the newspaper article about crossdressing that appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune, I can't take the credit for initiating the article. The credit for approaching the newspaper and making it happen needs to go to Kassie (UT-2210-T).

Because of the newspaper article, we



Winter 1992

already have four new members and many prospective members who will join when they feel ready.

Thanks, Kassie. We all appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,
Mary Ann (UT-2475-L)

Yes indeed, Thanks, Kassie. You've helped others and in so doing brought joy to them. I think this is great!

Jaye

Dear Sisters,

Here's hoping the Holiday season was good to one and all. I'd like to say just a few words of thanks to the Femme Mirror and our big sister Paula from Wisconsin. This has been a wonderful year. I had plans for a great Halloween which didn't go as planned, but the following days were great. I've had this genetic female friend for years, and she said that since Halloween didn't work out we could go out for shopping and lunch.

Sue (my friend) and I went shopping at the local mall on the fifth of November. We shopped at all the stores and looked at all the dresses, etc. We had a great time even at lunch. We also went shopping on December 17, and again we had another great time. Being no beauty, I was unsure I would pass, but no one really seemed to notice or really care. This has made us make plans for monthly shopping trips. Perhaps as I grow

more self-assured in my femme self I will try on dresses and such. I would love to attend one of many outings that happen during the year, but, wouldn't you know, my vacation time is set a year in advance, so that doesn't seem possible as yet.

I would like to hear from other sisters and in particular some from the West Michigan area. Here's a picture of me all decked out for Halloween. Sue wanted to show me how I looked (more fun).

Femme Mirror, keep up the good work. And, to all our sisters, Happy New Year (and life can be fun even if you're turning 53)!

Your friend,
Pam (MI-3205-M)

Pam,

Here's a hint from someone else who's no "beauty".... Just sit in the mall and watch the passing crowd. You will see, as I have seen, just how few real beauties there are. Let each glance into the mirror be a "Reality Check". Work with what you have and you'll be OK.

Jaye

Just a note to my sisters at Tri-Ess -

Life as we all will agree is so much more enjoyable if we can be allowed to live it as we want. The travesty is when we can't.

I am sure most of us feel in some strange way and for some unknown reason we have or are in the process of becoming

The Femme Mirror
what we should have been at birth. But, as with the "luck of the draw" something didn't split when it should have so we were born physically what we are.

I pondered these thoughts for some years until this last summer and I decided to do something about it. So, off I went to a reknowned clinic to have hormone and chromosome tests conducted to ascertain if there was an abnormal reason for my feminine feelings.

I would have been so easy if the answers had given to me the correct results. But, alas! all of the tests showed that I was ultra male in every respect save one - breasts. The doctor found no evidence of muscle tissue as a male would have. When he said, "I am so sorry, but your breasts show only female fatty tissue and no pectoral muscle development," I was not sorry - I was elated. Then I thought about all those hours I spent lifting weights in order to develop something that wasn't even there. What a laugh!

In my review, after all tests had been finalized, my doctor (who, by the way, is a woman) told me that they were just now being able recognize something beyond chromosome tests to determine sex and its cousins. So, I was not to fret, because there really was a reason whether physical or mental, and whatever the reason, it is OK.

I think the thing that impressed me most about this "witch hunt" came as I was leaving the office. The doctor came out in the hall and walked up beside me. She put her arm around me and said, "You are not alone. You are a wonderful person and above all,



quite a lady - even for a cowboy."

I walked away on "Cloud 9".

I say to all my sisters that have those of the opposite sex who do not understand - there are those who do, and we must treat them as special as they do us.

Until then,

Patti NM-3082-B

Dearest sisters,

As a very new member in the sorority I felt I had to write this letter in the light of my own recent circumstances. As I write this I am feeling positively beautiful in my satin formal, makeup, heels, etc. I'm feeling this way not only because of that, though.

You see, only a few days ago my wife was still unaware of "Phyllis", and I was still very much "in the closet". Finally, I decided to take the chance and let her know. I felt she would be accepting (she's a very open-minded woman), but I wasn't totally sure. Anyway, as hard as it was, after concealing this girl within me for years, I told her. Her reaction was very positive and I felt a surge of relief and joy like I've never experienced.

I then told her of Tri-Ess, let her review all of my crossdressing literature, and showed her my wardrobe. She still has some concerns, though; so she's decided to join the wives' group. However, she fully understands my need to be a girl and a man. Today we went shopping together for the first time and bought clothes and makeup. Earlier this evening she "made me over" fully, and I've

never looked or felt better! What beautiful experiences these were; especially after all my years of fear and guilt!

The point to all this is simple: If your spouse or girlfriend is unaware and you feel that she might be accepting, you've got to take the chance and tell her! If she is, you will feel more at peace with your self than ever! But regardless, she has to know - it's only fair. So, please, if your wife doesn't know and you want to tell her, DO IT! I did, and now Phyllis is free at last to blossom into a beautiful woman!

Love,
Phyllis TX-3409-H

P.S. Enclosed you will find a poem I have written about the girl inside special people like us. I wrote it the night I told my wife, before I told her, to give me courage. I hope you'll print it and others will benefit from it.

Phyllis,

Even if we don't get to the poem, your story is a beautiful one. It says you trust your wife enough to be vulnerable to her. Congratulations to both of you....

Jaye

Dear Frances,

So far this year I have received only my Winter 1991 and Summer 1991 issues of the Femme Mirror. Were the bridal photos published in the Spring issue?

Winter 1992

I attended the November meeting of the Sigma Epsilon Chapter, of which I have been an inactive member since it started. Kathy and Rachel already had their copy of the Fall 1991 issue so I kept looking for mine in the mail, knowing that Bulk Mail sometimes is slow to arrive.

Please send replacements for these two issue if you can. Let me know if there is an extra charge. Do you think that you should mail mine First Class?

Well, let me know what is best, because I really miss the issues. The articles are a treat and an encouragement. Keep up the good work, and thank you for your help.

Your sister in Tri-Ess,
Pippin (TN-1416-M)

(Ed. Note: We are very sorry your Spring and Fall issues did not arrive, Pippin. By now you should have received them by First Class mail. Our regular mailings of the Mirror are by Third Class Bulk Rate, which is a considerable savings over First Class. One drawback, of course, is that they generally take a week to ten days after mailing to actually arrive. Another, and worse, problem is that Third Class mail is not forwarded. So, dear sisters, if your address has changed, please notify us immediately so you won't miss your Mirror. If your dues are current and your Mirror fails to arrive within 30 days following our publication months of January, April, July or October, please let us know and we will send you a replacement. Don't suffer in silence! As we all know, the Post Office makes mistakes, and sometimes we do, too.)



Winter 1992

Dear Jeanette,

Receipt of the Fall 1991 Femme Mirror prompts a letter to the editor, by one of your faithful readers.

Since childhood I was brought up to help with the housework. I have washed dishes, dusted furniture, and swept floors, as well as mowing the lawn and clipping the edges. Since being married I do the laundry, make beds and do a little cooking. It has always seemed to me natural to do these things, which I suppose is a tribute to my mother's feelings that child of either gender should help Mother.a

I do not feel, however, that this is the reason I enjoy crossdressing. Actually, I was more interested in Mother's corsets and shoes than her dresses. I was well into my teens before I began to acquire slips and dresses. At least once I discarded a small wardrobe, and in my middle age there were rare opportunities to dress up, but since retirement I have taken much pleasure in it. I seldom go out dressed. My spouse has read the literature on the subject, and simply says she doesn't know why a man should want to wear a dress. But, on the subject of going out, she merely says, "Don't let the neighbors see you."

I have read a lot on the subject of why a male likes to crossdress, and must say that there may be a number of reasons, but "just because it feels good" seems to sum it up.

I eagerly await the new Directory, which hasn't appeared in my mail box yet.

Best regards,
Ruth NY-1643-P

Ruth,

See the Directory Update in this issue.
Eds.

Dear Miss Fairfax,

I finished this Poem: "To a Little Sister" last night and I am going to mail it to you gals at the Femme Mirror primarily because it was inspired (at least in part) by Miss Johnson's editorial in the last issue. And from the poem you're going to assume that I AGREE with that editorial. Actually I only agree in part. I agree that not all crossdressers are either potential or actual transsexuals. But that crack about her having seen very few feminine faces attached to male skulls has got me REALLY upset! I would have thought that everybody knew that there are no such things as "male" skulls and "female" skulls. You CANNOT tell the sex of a skeleton from the skull. (It's the pelvis that gives it away.) And there are all sorts of faces on all sorts of people! Take Anne Ramsey, who appeared in the films "The Goonies" and "Throw Momma from the Train". Does she have (did she have—she's passed away) a "feminine" face? Well, if you mean a "pretty" face according to our stereotypical standards—no. A face is a face, and you can spend a fortune on cosmetics and plastic surgery and all of that to give you what our society considers a "pretty" face, or, like most people Male AND Female, somehow manage to struggle through life with the face you were born with. Sure, a "pretty" face helps you to go unread, but your attitude, your mannerisms,

The Femme Mirror etc, etc. are MUCH more important. And, if you know anything about makeup you can give yourself a sufficiently "feminine" look for all but the CLOSEST encounters. Listen, I'm 6'2" tall and I've somehow managed to use the women's room in restaurants and nightclubs without sending the other occupants screaming for the police. And I don't have a "pretty" face. I got style.

Well, enough about that. The poem also advises not to take unnecessary risks (like I did when I used the ladies' room—I could've waited until I got home before taking care of business, but you know how it is—you just GOTTA do this!) and if anybody asks me I always SAY don't take unnecessary chances. Look before you leap. THINK about what you're doing! But you know and I know that some of our fondest recollections involve taking those very same risks and getting away with them. It's stupid for a crossdresser to use the ladies' room. Almost anywhere else we can argue civil rights and "freedom of expression" and all that ACLU bilge, but when you walk through the restroom door you've broken the law. But I'll always be glad I did it. But I WOULDN'T advise anyone to do it. See?

Well, that's about it. I gonna stop before this letter turns into an article. I don't write articles. I write short stories and poems. In fact, I rarely deal in reality at all. I MUCH prefer fantasy. If I want reality I turn on the 6:00 news. Anyway, here's the poem.

Your sister,
Sandra Anne CA-2172-C



The Femme Mirror
Sandra Anne,

We want. We're sorry you were upset. The fact is indisputable, however, in most cases, it is not the skeletal structure which identifies a face as a "male" but the muscle pattern and development as well as the skin texture and of course the facial hair. Anyone with a practiced eye will pick out virtually 100% of males made up to emphasise their best feminine qualities and dress. It's not in the bones, but on the bones, dear....

Jaye

Dear Carol:

I am including \$1.25 cash for postage for three letters to be forwarded to sisters in our area.

Phi-Sigma has been dormant over the summer months. Too many commitments and too hot. It hit 100 degrees here Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week (August 9, 1991).

Our local chapter has now grown to twenty two regular attendees. I do encourage them to become members of national. However, I am afraid that I have not been very successful. Most are content to attend meetings in body and name only. It is encouraging to see others are learning about Tri-Ess and becoming members, as in the case of the three sisters I am now contacting. Dixie from Golden Prairie, Saskatoon, is only about forty miles from us. Hopefully, she will make further contact.

The past year we had John Cox from About Face Makeup Studio attend one of our

meetings. He is just as good as Jim Bridges and does makeup for Calgary TV (as in television station) along with participants in the Miss Calgary pageant. A Dr. J. J. Miles spoke to us on another occasion. He counsels couples and was involved with a now-defunct gender clinic in Calgary. Government funded health care at times is not what it is cracked up to be.

Susan and I personally donated "Understanding Crossdressing" and "The Transvestite and His Wife" to our public library. Another couple from Calgary, Cindy and Elaine, have did the same with "My Husband Wears My Clothes". Even though you do not hear much from us, we are trying to do our part.

Last night a program called "Sisters" was aired by one of the networks. It is a weekly serial about four sisters now in their adult years. One of the sisters discovered her husband dressed in lingerie in a seedy hotel room. This was only a few days before their twenty-fifth anniversary. She and another sister who accompanied her on her spy mission were shocked, to say the least. After all, the guy is a medical doctor! You can imagine the rest of the story. It was very well done. In short, two of the sisters were able to obtain information on crossdressing. After that, they attempted to convince the poor wife that it was not such a big deal. We have been saying that all along. At any rate, the show handled the topic very well. I am sorry that I was not able to tape it for future viewing. The producers need to be commended. Obviously, they did some research.

In closing, please forward a supply of membership forms and the brochure explaining Tri-Ess. We have exhausted our supply. Also, please send four press packets.

Time to sign off. "Keep up the good work" to you and all the volunteers involved at the national level. I only wish that could do more from Canada.

Sincerely,

Sarah (FCAB-2465-G)

Sarah,

It sounds as though you are doing a lot already. Those you help certainly owe you a big hug and a Thank You.

Almost always there will be a few who will accept a "free ride" if they are allowed to do so. The Tri-Ess By-Laws are rather specific about the dues issue and about the chapter status. Other chapters have decided to "bite the bullet" and say "no Tri-Ess Membership (after two or three "free" meetings, then we're sorry, to attend our functions, Tri-Ess membership is required." Typically, the net loss in membership is minimal and the gain in services to all of us is greater. You might think about this....

Jaye

Dear Jeanette:

I received my Fall 1991 Femme Mirror and as usual I will read it from cover to cover. I would like to compliment JoAnn Roberts from Renaissance on her article,



Winter 1992

"Communication and Negotiation", and also Leslie (LA-1739-B) on her article called "A Little Advice on Marriage". I think they are the best articles on how to treat your wife I have ever gotten to read. I, too, treated my wife of over 40 years the same way. This made our relationship wonderful. We not only had a marriage, we also had a partnership. My only problem is that she passed away in January of 1991. I lost not only a good wife, but I lost my best friend as well. So I hope the rest of the girls that read the article not only read it but understand it. If someone treats his wife the same way, he will find that he not only has a good wife but also his very best friend.

When I would invite a girl to the house my wife would always make her feel welcome. This would always make the girls feel good. As most of the girls know, it's wonderful to be welcome where they go.

I hope you print this letter so more of the girls learn to be sensitive to their wives' needs. And in turn, their wives will be more sensitive to their needs. This will make a much better marriage, if they make the "little woman" a partner and not just a wife.

As JoAnn Roberts and Leslie (LA-1739-B) say, if you treat your wife like a partner you will also get a good friend, and this is what it's all about.

Sincerely from your
Pennsylvania Pocono Sister,
Sue (PA-2164-C)

Dear Jeanette,

I am writing in full support of your editorial about transsexualism which appeared in the

Fall issue. I am a primary transsexual, and a "Friend of Tri-Ess".

SRS does not add to femininity, unless of course one feels their feminine nature begins with their genitals, which is an illusion at best, and very unrealistic. Primary TS women know about this generally long before puberty, and the SRS brings our bodies into full congruence with the rest of our beingness, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

I lived a life of fear and denial, raising a family, doing everything I could to get away from being TS. My earliest memories go back to age 4 or 5, when I was wondering why I wasn't a girl. I was 9 years old when Christine Jorgenson had her SRS, and I wanted that so much for myself then.

Accepting myself as a TS was a blessing for me, and I have made good use of psychiatric help. My doctor challenges me every step of the way, which I appreciate. I am a celibate woman, deeply involved with spiritual ministry to those in the gender and sexual orientation community. Even being celibate, SRS is very important to me.

I would like to close by saying that Virginia Prince's term "BI-GENDERED" is so appropriate for sisters in Tri-Ess. Being bi-gendered is such a real blessing, and a gift. It is a gift I do not have. Accept the gift of your bi-gendered selves, and use it well to bless yourself, your families, and all humankind.

With love,
Victoria IN-3161-M

Victoria,

The Femme Mirror

Thank you for putting forth your views candidly. You say it like it is. I agree with what you say too!

Thanks from all of us on the Editorial Staff...

Jaye

Notice, please:

Danielle Storm (AR-3246-S), the new President and newsletter editor of Mu Sigma Chapter, Memphis, Tennessee, has written to let all her sisters know that her correct mailing address is:

Danielle Storm
P.O. Box 61
Jonesboro, AR 72403-0061

If you have sent mail to that address and had it returned by the Post Office, please try again. The matter has been cleared up by the Post Office.

Many thanks.



An open letter to the Bi-Gendered Community

As one of the 'Resident Shrinks' locally, Tau Chi members frequently bring to my attention concerns they might have. At the chapter meeting 18 January, 1992 two sisters brought hard copy print outs of the postings on a couple of the computer bulletin boards.

The concern they expressed was the way the 'boards' defined and discussed the topic "Transvestism". They were concerned about the persistent references to sexuality and their saying a "Transvestite" is someone, usually heterosexual and usually male, who derives some sort of sexual pleasure from wearing clothing of the other sex.

It is vital to understand the terms "Transvestite" and "Transvestism" are TECHNICAL terms and those definitions are TECHNICALLY correct. So, if you have been calling yourself a "transvestite" and do not now and have never (as is my case) experienced sexual involvement to ANY degree in the act of crossdressing, you are using the wrong word to identify yourself.

Technically, the terms as defined on the 'boards' indicated are, as I said, correct. However, for non-professional and non-technical use, I agree with Virginia Prince in the introduction of and recommendation of the use of the term: Bi-Gendered.

I think if we as a community will quit looking to the professional literature and to the gutter for terms with which to identify ourselves and begin simply to think of ourselves as "PERSONS who just happen to be bi-gendered" we will all be far healthier in our view of ourselves and our sisters.

Jaye Reviere, Ph.D.

If You Are Moving.....

Please Notify us of your Change of Address by writing to:

Tri-Ess
P.O. Box 194
Tulare, CA 93275

**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR TRI-ESS
MEMBERSHIP NUMBER!**

A Special Note from Carol Beecroft:

Many sisters have written over the years to express their disappointment in not receiving replies to their letters to other Tri-Ess sisters. It seems that while some sisters are wonderfully prolific pen pals, others (for a variety of reasons) are not. To assist those who would like to receive lots of letters, we hope to compile a "Pen-Pal List" for publication in the Mirror. All you have to do is promise to reciprocate. Just fill out and sign the form below and send it to me at: P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

**"I promise the courtesy of a
reply to all correspondence
from my Tri-Ess sisters."**

FemmeName: _____

Code Number: _____

Newsletter Editors:

Please send a copy of each edition of your newsletter directly to the FEMME MIRROR, c/o Jane Ellen Fairfax, P.O. Box 1105, Alief, TX 77411-1105. We would like permission to reprint letters and articles from your publication which are of interest and significance to our readers. We promise to give proper credit for anything we print.

Many Thanks.....

-MIRROR Staff

Page 38

HER NAME IS MELISSA.....

Some months ago we went out shopping....

In Women's shops all over town.

Tried to share a few tips with this quiet feller,

Would he ever come around?....

(Her name is Melissa...)

I wondered if I'd ever hear from "Him"...
"Would he ever find time to come?"

At last a call for, "Rebecca Lynn"...
"I'm Coming. Please help me."
Now what would he become?

(What's your "Femme Name" going to be?)

He said... "I'm going to try 'Melissa'..."

We waited impatiently, excitedly to see...
What a complete transformation
in this neat feller would be....

We were awed by the beauty as she stepped from her car....
Is that "HER" or is she a girl? We hesitated....
She was way above par....

AWE, YES...

HER NAME IS.....MELISSA....

The lovely delicate white gown....
Oh how we wanted something like it...

Her makeup....her wig....her shiny black shoes.... We were speechless I do admit....

Her sensitivity as Karen snapped the pictures added further inspiration...

Then to "Warehouse Row", the new exquisite Mall....
"She's a Girl"....they said...What an affirmation....

(Yes, we've already learned to love an' be inspired by our new sister....)

AND WE PROUDLY SAY....

"HER NAME IS MELISSA".....

—Rebecca Lynn (TN-3033-H)

Reflections

Where Were You In '91?

by Brenda Thomas



Well, it seems as though another year has come and gone. I wonder where it went. It just seems like yesterday that I wrote my first article for Tau Chi Chapter, and now here it is January and my first anniversary. But back to '91. I had set some goals for the year, and as I look back to see how I did, I realize that I accomplished some of the goals that I had set for myself and failed to reach some of the others. But all in all I feel that it was a good year.

Why, do you ask, do I set goals and possibly give myself the opportunity to fail? Well, you also must realize that by setting goals I also give myself the opportunity to excel. I feel that it is important to have a "measuring stick"; so to speak, a growth meter. Back in the spring, if you remember, we talked about growth. Growth is important to all living things. The opposite of growth is stagnation; the best word I know to describe stagnation is death. So you can see that it is important to me to grow as a human being. I want to know that I learned something. That is what growth is, you know, learning; learning the things that make us a better person, and a better human being.

One of the goals that I set for myself

in '91 was to do all that I was capable of doing to help others that were in the same situation that I was in; that is, Crossgendered Persons without any place to turn. To try to help those who were unsure of what was going on. To try to educate others about the crossgendered phenomenon, so that we may have an easier acceptance in society. One of the ways that I planned to accomplish this was through my writing of this column. Now I don't know how many of you I have actually helped. One reason being, I don't know how many of you needed help. But I can say that I have received letters from some of you, so at least I know that there are a few that I have possibly helped.

Does it now become important to you to look back and see, "Where was I in '91?" That is a question that only you can answer. How important was last year for you? How important was it for you to grow as a person? How important was it for you to help others? What did you do to help your support group grow? Did you have an opportunity to help others in the community? And if so, did you in fact help them? These are questions that only you can answer, but they are questions that should be looked at for your own growth.

Consequently, having looked back on '91, I must now look forward to '92 and try to establish some guide lines for the coming year. What do I want to do, to accomplish, and to be remembered for? Well, to begin with, I have been selected to serve as Vice-President of Tau Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess here in Houston. I know that will keep me busy. I also am starting a weekly issues group for crossdressers and their families. (This will meet on Wednesday nights.) I also need to find a new job. That will take some doing. I will be taking on three new "Little Sisters" for

'92. That should also keep me busy. The one thing I don't ever want to lose track of are the many girls I have met and corresponded with during the past year. I do so treasure the relationships that have been established over time. If the Mirror wants to keep me on I would also like to keep on writing this column. And I still want to help those who need help coming to grips with their crossdressing.

I would also like to do more outreach. After getting over my initial fears at the last presentation, I feel that this is an area in which I can accomplish some good things for the entire crossgendered populace. Outreach to me is very important; the education of all toward our needs is a void that desperately needs to be filled. The more people we can educate the more acceptance we will have in the mainstream of society.

So, now you know where I was in '91, and now you must answer the question, "Where were you in '91? and also, "Where will you be in '92?"

Till next time, girls, remember, "BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE."

You can write to me...Brenda Thomas, 6804 E. Hwy. 6, So., #334, Houston, TX 77083

Crossdressing With Dignity by Dr. Peggy Rudd

Written by the wife of a crossdresser, this provocative book addresses the emotions that surface as crossdressers transcend gender lines.

Available for \$12.95 (US) from:

PM Publishers
P.O. Box 5304
Katy, Texas 77491-5304

Chapter News

Dateline: Albuquerque

In a wonderful example of cooperation among members of bigender support groups, Linda and Cynthia Phillips of San Antonio's Boulton & Park Society and certain Fiesta Chapter members took advantage of an excellent opportunity for public education. They appeared on the Jane Metzler television talk show, "Morning With Jane", on a local Albuquerque network. The evening before the show, a number of Fiesta Chapter members, along with Linda and Cynthia, enjoyed a fine Italian meal with Jane Metzler and answered preliminary questions. Undoubtedly, their appearance in "civilian clothes" enabled Jane Metzler to see them as whole people, and may very well have played a part in the wonderfully sympathetic presentation she gave the following day.

"Coming up next, we will meet some crossdressers. They like to wear women's clothing. They say they're not gay, but do this as a form of self-expression," began Jane in the opening segment of the show. This statement set the pattern of friendly curiosity which was to be the hallmark of the show, essentially from beginning to end. Linda and Cynthia explained the healthy influence of crossgendered expression on their 33-year marriage. Renee', extremely articulate, explained that telling her wife about her feminine side involved coming to terms with her innermost self. The names of both Tri-Ess and its Fiesta Chapter were prominently displayed at several junctures. Renee' discussed how the support group helped her to mature, and helped her wife to meet other couples. Throughout the show, the discussion centered upon creative and positive aspects of crossdressing, along with provocative questions. There never seemed to be any attempt to sensationalize the subject.

Jane's question, "What do you get out of this?" led to a discussion about social restrictions and stereotypes and the alternative of androgeny. With her typical light humor, Linda replied, "There are a lot of us grey cats out there."

This segment of "Morning With Jane" was everything an educational show on crossdressing should be. The production staff was very helpful in making possible contact with people in need who may have been watching. Rumor has it that Renee's

outstanding performance has raised her stock dramatically for the "Miss Fiesta" crown.

Dateline: Elyria, Ohio

The following contribution is courtesy of Gloria and First magazine, May, 1991, as reprinted in la femme Silhouette:

"Hints on Scents"

"Heat and humidity intensify scent, so stick to lighter, fresher versions in hot weather. Reapply every four hours.

Perfume is the most concentrated fragrance, lasts longest (4 to 6 hours) and contains approximately 15% to 30% essential oils. Eau de parfum contains 12% to 18% essential oils and lasts 4 to 5 hours. Eau de toilet has more alcohol, 4% to 8% essential oils, and lasts about 2 to 4 hours. Cologne is the lightest formula, with 3% to 5% essential oils and lasting about 2 hours.

The dryer the climate or season (winter, for example), the quicker a fragrance will evaporate. Dry skin? Skip lighter scents. They won't last. To help fragrance last longer, try layering: apply body lotion or cream, then dusting powder or body talc, and then perfume (all in the same scent, of course); or, rub in a little moisturizer before applying fragrance. For the most intense, pungent scent with staying power, try oriental fragrances.

A great place to apply fragrances is on your scalp (behind the ears, near the base of the hairline, or at the temples). The scalp contains a large blood supply, which gives it a higher temperature, causing the fragrance to project farther. Be sure your hair is clean, so that dirt and oils don't distort scent. Remember, fragrance rises. Spritz backs of knees and ankles, and also the cleavage. Apply a dab of perfume to your palms. The large number of oil glands there will hold the scent. Spray your hair brush with fragrance, then brush your hair.

Think you're allergic to a certain scent because you sneeze when you apply it? If it's a spritz-on, it could be the chemical propellants in the atomizer. Try a pour bottle and dab it on. Never buy a product because you like the way it smells in the bottle or on someone else. To test a fragrance, apply to

wrists and forearms and then wait at least 15 minutes to half an hour to get the final scent (known as the bass note). Remember, wearing competing scents will only confuse you. Better to sample one brand at a time."

Gloria also offers the following hints to avoid being "read" at traffic lights: "When pulling up to traffic lights on multi-lane roads, stop about 10 to 15 feet from where you would normally stop. Hopefully, cars in the next lane will pull up to the light normally, and be offset from yours. If another car is already stopped at the light, stop so that the front of your car is even with the back of their door. Either of the above will prevent people in the cars next to yours from studying you. If a car does stop directly next to you, ignore it. If alone, look around, but tend to look away from it, so all they see is the back of your head. If there is more than one in your car, carry on a normal conversation, with the girl on the side of the car next to the other car turning and looking at the other passengers in your car. Again, show them only the back of her head. And always keep your doors locked."

Dateline: Seattle, Washington

Here's the latest on our newest Tri-Ess chapter, Omega Alpha:

Dear Jane Ellen,

This is the written request of the following charter members to officially form the first chapter of Tri-Ess in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Our chapter will be headquartered in the Seattle area (we currently have three private homes available to us at this time). To date - we have had three "un-official" meetings and discussions, with the conclusion being reached that we are all, indeed, Tri-Ess sisters and should be a part of the Society for the Second Self.

For the time being and until other chapters are formed we expect to draw Tri-Ess sisters, their spouses and families together for support, outreach and comradeship from Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. From Seattle, it is only an easy three hour drive to the Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, B.C., areas.

January 11th, 1992, has been selected

Winter 1992

for our first official meeting with, hopefully, all of the following charter members in attendance:

Melissa and Betty Lou WA-3133-P (+)
Ellen Summers OR-1378-S
Kristal and Gloria WA-2835-Q
Michelle Lee WA-2630-H
Jacquelyn and Marci WA-3030-P
Emily and Jan WA-3210-M
Renee and Margaret
Allison and Feebe WA-3308-S (+)
Cheryl WA-1918-C

At this first meeting we will:

1. Ratify our bylaws.
2. Elect one wife to serve as our liaison to the Office of Wives and Partners Concerns.
3. Elect/appoint a President, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.
4. Establish and set monthly dues.
5. Work on an outreach program.

And, have fun and a good dinner!!

Omega Alpha - seems to be an appropriate name at this time. "WA" meaning the "long beginning" - if I am reading my dictionary correctly.

We even have a chapter motto: "Loving Sets Us Free."

Our address is: Omega Alpha - Tri-Ess,
P.O. Box 876, Stanwood, WA 98292 Attn:
Michelle Lee

We would very much like to reach out to all our Tri-Ess sisters in the Northwest (particularly in Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia) and welcome them to Omega Alpha and invite them to join us in building this "local" chapter. Hopefully, as we gather momentum we will be able to plan "weekend" events and meetings for those "outside the greater Seattle area" if they, in fact, contact me and show an interest in getting together with all of us here locally.

Perhaps, Esprit 92 this May will offer the opportunity for our "distant" sisters to all get acquainted with the local Omega Alpha sisters.

Details and photographs of our first official Omega Alpha meeting will be forwarded to the Femme Mirror as soon as available.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the

President of the Emerald City group, assuring them, herein, that Omega Alpha is not, and has not been set up to form any kind of "competitive" situation. In fact, all of our charter members are also currently members of E.C. at this time and I'm sure will continue to be. And "dual" memberships will provide the opportunities to "go out" 3 to 4 times a month! Additionally, meeting and social events will be scheduled so as to avoid any conflicting dates.

I believe this just about covers it all for now. See you soon!!!

Michelle Lee

Editorial Policy

The Femme Mirror is absolutely committed to protecting the security and confidentiality of all Tri-Ess members. In order to ensure this protection, the Mirror conforms to the following editorial policy:

1) The Mirror will not publish the last name of any Tri-Ess member without the expressed written consent of the member, unless the surname is known to be a pseudonym.

2) We encourage all contributors to the Mirror to adopt a pseudonym when submitting articles and letters for publication. We request that you place the surname in quotation marks so that we will know it is a pseudonym.

3) We request that each contributor include her Tri-Ess number on all material.

4) Contributors should avoid use of true last names in letters or articles, and particularly in accounts of chapter activities and other events. We reserve the right to edit such material to remove surnames or other potentially compromising information.

Please help us to serve you in a professional manner.

-Your Mirror Staff

The Femme Mirror

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Image Consultant



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The opinions and views expressed in the Femme Mirror are those of the respective contributors and do not necessarily represent the views or official policies of The Society for the Second Self, its Officers and Board Members.

How to Start a Wives/Partners Group

by Cynthia Phillips

First, you need to talk to the CD's about their wives/partners, to see if they feel that their partners would attend. Often the CD may not want his partner to attend, as he is afraid of "CD bashing". You must work around this.

Send out a questionnaire to all women that you think might be potential members. Enclose your phone number, and/or self-addressed envelope for reply.

You must make it clear that anything you say is strictly confidential, and that what the wives say in confidence won't end up in the "newsletter" or discussed with CD's.

It's also important to point out that no one is going to try to change their thinking. This is strictly a discussion group to help the women become "comfortable" with the "level" they have, or are trying to achieve.

When you receive your desired response, set up a time and place for the meeting. You have several options here. (1) You may want to meet during the time of the regular crossdressing meeting, in another room of the meeting facility or home. (2) You may meet at a completely different time, and at a member's home. (3) You may wish to meet in the afternoon, before the regular crossdressing meeting starts. (4) You may wish to rent a hotel room or meet in a private room of a restaurant.

The best seating arrangement is a circle, where everyone feels part of the group.

At the beginning, have everyone introduce themselves and tell a little of their history. This makes everyone feel more comfortable.

The "facilitator" needs to give the women a little history of the "crossdressing world". Many women know very little about this phenomenon. Give them some medical facts. (These are all available from IFGE or Boulton & Park.)

I would suggest that you give each woman a list of phone numbers for the members of your group. Check beforehand to make sure that no one will mind being on the list. The

numbers are for women that might be having a hard time, and need a "kindred soul" to talk with. (Most women, before they meet others, feel that they are the only one in the world with this problem.) Many don't feel comfortable telling their friends or family. So you must stick together. That's what a support group is about. Have someone be the "hostess" and supply coffee, colas, cookies, etc. (It's easier to talk when you have something to snack or sip on.)

Dues for your group are optional. Usually you can get the CD group to pay for any expenses that you may incur. (They are usually delighted to do so.)

Pick one woman to be the "facilitator" for the group. She doesn't have to be a Professional, just someone to keep the conversation moving in a positive manner. The "facilitator" should have a theme for the discussion; however, this should be loosely adhered to, as other problems arise.

You may wish to have a column for wives/partners in your local CD newsletter, or possibly send out a small newsletter of your own to women that may have missed the meeting.

Don't let the group get into a "CD bashing" mode. This can be very destructive to everyone concerned. It's perfectly all right to talk about some "negatives", but "positives" must also enter into all this. (If we didn't love and want to keep our men, we wouldn't be here.)

Meetings should be limited to 2 or 2-1/2 hours. Anything more than this turns counterproductive.

Meetings held once a month are usually sufficient.

You don't need to have Officers for your group. The simpler you keep it, the better.

I I can be of further help to you, please don't hesitate to contact me:

Cynthia Phillips, P.O. Box 17, Bulverde, Texas 78163 (512) 438-7604

(ABOUT MY BOULTON & PARK W.A.T.S. GROUP)

We have been in existence for approximately three years. George Brown, M.D., and myself, Cynthia Phillips, are co-facilitators. The meetings are held once a month, in my home. We meet from 3:00PM to 5 or 5:30PM on the third Saturday of each month. After our meeting, we have a couples party/discussion group. Everyone brings a covered dish, and we discuss topics of concern to all of us. Most of the wives/partners stay for the evening get-together, but it isn't necessary.

Arise and Walk in Light by Kathy Helms

Come, my sisters, arise and
Walk in Light.
Shake off the loathsome fetters
of shame's blight.
Link strength and grace and
call the world to see,
The steadfast beauty of the
willow tree.

Come, my sisters, arise and
Walk in Light.
In inward femininity, delight.
With raiment bright,
Enrobe your joyful soul,
Let inner hope and outward form
be whole.

Come, my sisters, arise and
Walk in Light.
Paint yourself with hues of
nature bright,
And nurture flower's bud
till blossom comes,
As fragrant gift to God who
loves you so.

Big Sister Update

NOTICE! NOTICE!

In keeping with Tri-Ess' policy of delegating important functions to the various chapters, the Big Sister Program has been assigned to the ladies of Delta Chapter, Denver. Please address all Big Sister correspondence to:

**Pat & Shirley K.,
Delta Chapter
P.O. Box 803
Evergreen, CO 80439.**

One year ago Tri-Ess inaugurated a Big Sister Program to provide one-on-one personal support for our new Tri-Ess sisters during their first year of membership. The response was gratifying. Close to one hundred members have stepped forward to help their new Tri-Ess sisters, and many heart-warming letters testify to needs met and wonderful friendships formed. Now some Little Sisters are coming forward in their turn to help those newer still to find acceptance and friendship.

Yes, the Big Sister Program can be pronounced a resounding success, but we cannot stop at that. As more Little Sisters join Tri-Ess more Big Sister volunteers will be needed to assist them. Every one of us was at one time new to the crossgender community, and in need of support. We each, therefore, have a sacred duty to help those who are now where we once were. If you would like to help with this very important service, please write to Patricia and Shirley at the above address.

Please include a little information about yourself so that we can better match Big Sisters with new members. *Please include your Tri-Ess membership number.* On behalf of our new members, thank you for your help.

Big Sister Honor Roll

Tri-Ess would like to honor the following members who, by serving in the Big Sister Program, share of themselves to provide the loving support so much needed by new sisters.

Barbara	CA-2875-S
Melissa	CA-2896-F
Joan	FL-2283-M
Raina	OK-2407-P
Linda	IL-2156-S
Rebecca Lynn	TN-3033-H
Karen	CA-2722-H
Kathy	WI-2729-L
Kristal	WA-2835-Q
Joan Ann	FL-2520-B
Lisa Renee'	OH-1370-N
Tabetha Ann	WV-2302-T
Denise	FL-2746-S
Domino Marie	MI-1256-B
Radene	NV-2653-R
Leona	CA-2778-M
Sharon	CA-2892-M
Nora	PA-1392-W
Michelle Lee	WA-2630-H
Rita	TN-1230-H
Tanya	OH-2081-B
Rebecca Lee	NC-2702-P
Andria	VA-1304-M
Mikki Beth	CT-2806-C
Marcia Ann	MI-2948-T
Bobbi	SC-2812-L
Nancy Ann	MD-2655-B
Marlene	OH-2823-B
Donna	CO-2924-T
Maureen	IA-1971-D
Sue	PA-2164-C
Enid	NV-1281-S
Vicki	IN-3161-M
Joanne	FL-2999-P
Cheryl	FL-2783-S
Donna	TX-2253-S
Naomi	IL-1164-O
Regina	OK-2200-R
Brenda	TX-3179-R
Karen	TX-3047-C
Paula	WI-2507-M

Lucy	WI-3079-G
Cissy	MS-3104-S
Barbara Jean	TN-3106-J
Linda	MI-2398-N
Melissa	WA-3133-P
Bobbie	ND-1748-M
Liz	WY-1496-J
Debbie	VA-3159-M
Janette	CA-2880-C
Sherri	TX-2666-B
Monique	TX-3177-B
Connie	NY-1320-N
Barbara	IL-1171-C
Wendy	GA-2439-W
Kimberly	NV-2781-K
Samantha	TX-1435-W
Cynthia	TX-3167-P+
Linda	TX-3167-P
Janice	FCON-2699-T
Lynda	NJ-1303-F
Ellen	OR-1378-S
Gloria	OH-2751-M
Dena Kay	TX-2358-F
Jennifer	FL-3272-G
Joanna	GA-3245-S
Linda	MI-2556-L
Barbara	MO-1734-J
Lisa	IL-2701-W
Michelle	AL-3083-T
Kim	VA-1836-S
Pamela	MD-2371-T
Rhonda	OH-2499-M
Joyce	OH-3238-S
Jennifer	MO-3301-W
Linda	MI-2556-L
Tina	MO-3294-N
Samantha	NJ-3249-H
Cathy	IL-3284-W
Diane	CA-3190-H
Joanna	NV-3034-H

If we have inadvertently omitted anyone from this Honor Roll, please forgive us. If you are a recent volunteer and have not been assigned your Little Sisters, please be patient - you will be. Thank you all, sisters, for making Tri-Ess a little more meaningful for us all.



Tri-Ess Sorority

The Femme Mirror

Region 1 (New England)

New York City Metro Area
CHI DELTA MU
P.O. Box 477, Co-Op Sta.
Bronx, NY 10475
Contact: Charlene NY-1756-C

New York/Long Island Area
LAMBDA IOTA c/o Lifelines
P.O. Box 31, Hempstead, NY 11551
Phone (718) 446-6753

Region 2 (Ohio Valley and Middle Atlantic)

Trenton, NJ Metro Area
SIGMA NU RHO
P.O. Box 9255, Trenton, NJ 08650
Contact: Donna Marie NJ-2268-G

Northern Ohio, West PA Area
ALPHA OMEGA
P.O. Box 954, Elyria, OH 44036
Contact: Jennifer OH-2539-H

Toledo, OH Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Ronda OH-2499-M

Gouldsboro, PA Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Sue PA-2164-C

Erie, PA Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
2115 W 8th St #261, Erie PA 16505
Contact: Pamela PA-3232-D

Charleston, WV Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Box 2322, Huntington, WV 25724
Contact: Tabettha Ann WV-2302-T

Region 3 (Southeast)

Charlotte, NC Metro Area
KAPPA BETA
P.O. Box 12101, Charlotte, NC 28220
Contact: Correspondence Secretary

Bridgeton, NC Metro Area
CHI CHI RHO "Crystal Coast Rose"
P.O. Box 733, Bridgeton, NC 28519
Contact: Catlin NC-3016-W

Atlanta, GA Metro Area
SIGMA EPSILON
Box 250481, Atlanta, GA 30325
Contact: Joan FL-2520-B

Memphis, TN Metro Area
MU SIGMA
P.O. Box 61, Jonesboro, AR 72403
Contact: Danielle AR-3246-S

Knoxville, TN Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Lori TN-2402-M

Region 4 (Mid-South)

Jackson, MS Metro Area
BETA CHI
P.O. Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39206
Contact: Lee Frances MS-2125-H

Dallas/ Ft. Worth, TX Metro Area
DELTA OMEGA
P.O. Box 1021, Arlington, TX 76004
Contact: Samantha TX-1435-W
Phone: (817) 429-1929

Houston, TX Metro Area
TAU CHI
P.O. Box 1105, Alief, TX 77411
Contact: Jane TX-1757-M
Phone: (713) 988-8064

New Orleans, LA Metro Area
TRI DELTA CHI
Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187
Contact: Lee LA-2460-D

Huntsville, AL Metro Area
SIGMA RHO GAMMA
P.O. Box 16174, Huntsville AL 35802
Contact: Michelle AL-3083-T

Amarillo, TX Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Sally TX-2831-F

Jacksonville/Lufkin/ East Texas Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Sheila TX-3088-H

Ft. Sill, OK Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Regina OK-2222-R

Shawnee, OK Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Diane OK-2889-F

Region 5 (Mid-West)

Chicago, IL Metro Area
CHI
P.O. Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191
Contact: Deanna IL-1155-B

Phone: (708) 364-9514

Cedar Rapids, IA Metro Area
IOTA ALPHA (Iowa Artistry)
P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
Contact: Beverly IA-1615-B
Phone: (319) 842-2654

Minneapolis, MN Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Ann MN-1560-B

Region 6 (Mid-Continental)

Denver, CO Metro Area
DELTA
Box 803, Evergreen, CO 80439
Contact: Patricia CO-2777-K

New Mexico, So. Colorado, W. Texas
PHI (FIESTA)
8200 Montgomery NE #241
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Contact: Jessa NM-2804-B

Kansas City, MO Metro Area
KAPPA GAMMA MU
P.O. Box 98, Belton, MO 64012-0098
Contact: Jennifer MO-3301-W
Phone: (816) 322-4009

Region 7 (Northwest)

Calgary, Alberta Metro Area
PHI SIGMA
P.O. Box 2546
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G8 Canada
Contact: Sarah FCAB-2465-G

Moscow, ID Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Laurie ID-1704-W

Eugene, OR Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Debra Kim OR-1731-K

Seattle, WA Metro Area
OMEGA ALPHA
Box 876, Stanwood, WA 98292
Contact: Michelle WA-2630-H

Vancouver, BC Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Dana FCBC-1929-H

Region 8 (Southwest)

Los Angeles, CA Metro Area
ALPHA

Winter 1992

Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036
Contact: Virginia Prince
Phone: (213) 876-6141

Tulare, CA Metro Area
TRI CHI
P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275
Contact: Carol CA-1012-B

"Inland Empire", CA Area
IOTA EPSILON
P.O. Box 3480, Fontana, CA 92334
Contact: Chrissie CA-2331-W

Sacramento, CA Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Kay CA-1542-M

Sonoma County, CA Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Janette CA-2880-C

Eureka, CA Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Lois CA-2148-M

San Rafael, CA Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Kathy CA-1044-J

Phoenix, AZ Metro Area
ALPHA ZETA
P.O. Box 24459, Tempe, AZ 85285
Contact: Carol AZ-2888-M

Salt Lake City, UT Metro Area
ALPHA RHO
Box 26711, Salt Lake City, UT 84126
Contact: Kimberly NV-2781-K

Reno/Carson City/S.Lake Tahoe NV
SIGMA SIGMA BETA
"Sierra Silver Belles"
Contact: Radene NV-2653-R

Honolulu, HI Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Tracy HI-3102-R

Region 9 (International)

Ottawa, ON Metro Area
TAU NU (Gender Mosaic)
P.O. Box 7421
Vanier, ON K1L 8E4, Canada
Contact: Natalie FCON-2975-B

Region 10 (Florida)

Orlando, FL Metro Area

PHI EPSILON MU
P.O. Box 3261
Winter Park, FL 32790
Contact: Denise FL-2746-S

The Femme Mirror

Miami, FL Metro Area
FORMING CHAPTER
Contact: Linda FL-3252-C

Tri-Ess Welcomes....

We wish to extend our warmest welcome to the following new sisters, who have been added to the membership rolls in the past quarter. Perhaps you, too, would like to welcome them.

CA-3360-L Katarina	Fillmore
KS-3361-Z Veronica	Manhattan
MA-3362-C Holly	Needham
NJ-3363-H Geri	New York
OH-3364-W Corey	Akron
NC-365-L Janie	Elon College
MT-3366-L Diana	Great Falls
CA-3367-D Cheryl	Irvine
IL-3368-F Lori	Lisle
IL-3369-D Dede	Wasco
IL-337R Janine	Lake Villa
IL-3371-H Donna	Naperville
MA-3372-S Debbie	Cambridge
OH-3373-G Kristin	Wellington
OR-3374-C Tracie	South Beach
WV-3375-M Marina	Charleston
IN-3376-S Rhonda Dee	Ft. Wayne
OH-3377-N Diane	Euclid
AR-3378-D Cecile	Knoxville
AL-3379-R Celeste	Madison
CA-3380-D Deborah	Alta Loma
VA-3381-G Stephanie	Fairfax
NY-3382-R Donna	Hartsdale
PA-3383-W Caria	Pittsburgh
CA-3384-B Jackie	Los Angeles
AK-3385-S Samantha	Anchorage
OH-3386-F Pam	Canton
FCAB-3387-B Monica	Lethbridge
WI-3388-A Lori	Marshfield
OH-3389-H Barbara	Painesville
GA-3390-H Lorren	Roswell
AZ-3391-L Deidre	Phoenix
MI-3392-W Ronnie	Grand Blanc
OH-3393-S Janet	Wooster
IL-3394-G Sheryl	Northbrook
WI-3395-C Charlene	Green Bay

WY-3396-M Lori	Casper
GA-3397-S Aino-Georgia	Jesup
NJ-3398-S Laura	W. Trenton
ND-3399-K Cheryl	Fargo
SC-3400-T Cheryl	Taylors
VA-3401-W Samantha	Merry Point
FL-3402-J Claire	Ft. Pierce
SERV-3403-F Pamela	APONY
NY-3404-N Denise	Williamsville
CA-3405-S Priscilla	Santa Cruz
NY-3406-M Jennifer	Bronx
OH-3407-S Megan	Willowick
NC-3408-G Divinity	Charlotte
TX-3409-H Phyllis	Austin
MS-3410-A Rebecca	Jackson
AL-3411-S Samantha	Rainbow City
CA-3412-B Judi	Huntington Beach
CA-3413-C Priscilla	Moorpark
VA-3414-R Lee	Vienna
IL-3415-S Tricia Marie	Northbrook
IL-3416-M Candace	Geneva

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

YES, the Membership Directory does exist!! The hard-working girls of Chi Chapter, lead by Deanna Johns, have just about completed the mammoth task of data entry. Deanna had sample pages on display at the Holiday En Femme. She hopes to have the project completed and mailed out to members this spring. Any questions about the Directory, profile updates and photos should be sent directly to: Deanna Johns c/o Chi Chapter P.O. Box 40 Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

It Can Happen To You!

by: Debbie TX-3143-H

I am writing this story now, because it is still fresh in my memory. It happened less than eight hours ago. It was the most frightening experience of my cross-dressing life. Every word is true, no exaggeration.

Being in the military and recently assigned to a new base, the first three or four times I went out dressed, I cleaned up before entering base. Each and every time I entered the base, it was without incident; the guards would just wave me through the gate. So for the past few months, probably fifteen times, I didn't bother cleaning up. I just went back to my room dressed.

Last night started out routinely. I attended a group meeting and then ten or fifteen of us went to a local club. I left the club about 2:00 a.m., and drove back to base. Everything was fine until the guard stopped me at the gate and asked for my military ID card. I fumbled through my purse, my mind racing wildly. Obviously I couldn't show him my real ID. So I turned to the guard and said I couldn't find my ID card. He asked for my driver's license. I told him I didn't have my wallet. I watched him for about 15 to 30 seconds, and then offered to turn around leave and come back with a friend with a valid ID. He refused and had me pull my vehicle aside. At that time, a second guard appeared at the window and the questioning began again.

I had read many articles by TVs that were apprehended by the police; in each article the author recommended honesty. Admit to the police that you are a TV; the outcome is normally better. All this was running through my mind during the incident, but had I admitted to the military guard that I was a TV — my career was over. So, I had to try to pass; it was my only chance.

The second guard asked similar questions, plus a couple of much tougher ones. What is your name? I gave my femme name. Are you in the military? No. Who is your sponsor? My husband, his name is _____ (I gave my first real name and my femme last name). What is your address? I made up an out-of-state address. Where are you staying here? At billeting, room ??? He

was writing down my responses. He left and went to the guard shack. Within five minutes, the guard's supervisor was present. They couldn't decide what to do. They wanted to be nice, but by law they couldn't allow me to drive my vehicle without a license. They assumed I had left my wallet in my room, so the supervisor decided to drive me to my room, so I could show him some kind of ID. I didn't know what to do. I couldn't bring him to my room; I had my stuff all over my room. As I was sitting there thinking what to do, the supervisor told the guards to have my license plate number run through the computer. I heard the reply over the radio clearly ... my real name and address. The guard looked puzzled, came back to the car and asked for my husband's name again. I gave my real name. Luckily, my femme last name rhymed with my real last name. They are very close

Thank God, he assumed he heard me wrong the first time. He asked me to step out of the car, so he could administer a field sobriety test. They wanted to let me go, but had to make sure I wouldn't have an accident. The supervisor came over to watch the test. I was scared to death. I wanted to start my car and just drive away. Again, I was lucky. While at the club, I only had two glasses of wine. So, I figured my major problem would be passing as a woman. It would be easy to pass this test. What I didn't count on was my adrenaline. It kicked in big time. I passed the touching the nose test. But, I failed the standing on one foot trick. I tried three times, but I was so nervous I was shaking, and couldn't maintain my balance for the 20 seconds. The guard looked at me and said I obviously couldn't drive in that condition.

I was desperate. I pleaded, "Honest - I'm not drunk, just nervous. I've never been pulled over before. Please let me try one more time." He agreed, I stayed on my foot to the count of 17, then lost my balance. He looked at me and administered the third and final test; walk heel to toe for nine steps, make a three point turn and take three more steps. I was still nervous and still shaking. I walked heel to toe nine steps (waving a lot), made my three point turn and returned nine steps. Luckily, I got my balance the

last six steps. I thought that I passed. I looked at the officer. He was watching me intently and asked me why I took nine steps in return when he told me to take three. I apologized and told him I was just very nervous. He told me to get back in my car. He and the supervisor left.

I vividly remember praying, over and over again, "Please, God, help me get out of this. Please!" I saw my world falling apart. After about five minutes the guard returned and told me that I failed the sobriety test, but both he and the supervisor thought it was because I was nervous. So, his supervisor agreed to follow me to my room and if I could show him some ID, everything would be over. I panicked. I told him I lost my wallet; it wasn't in my room. He looked at me and said, "I'm sorry, but then we'll have to take you to the station house. We can't let you drive without a license."

Because they were trying to be nice, I knew I had a chance if I could come up with an acceptable solution. I had to come up with something or my career was over. Out of desperation, my creativity blossomed. I asked, "What if I parked my car at the visitor's lot and walked to my room?" (It was a two mile walk, but worth it if they agreed). He seemed to like that solution, but had to clear it with the supervisor. He was back in about two minutes, and asked me to step out of the car and hand over my keys.

My heart stopped. I slowly opened the door, and got out. As I was getting out, the guard told me he couldn't allow me to drive my car to the visitor's lot, but if I gave him permission, he would be happy to do it for me. I almost jumped for joy, as I handed him my keys. The supervisor came over and offered me a ride to my room. I couldn't believe my good fortune. During the ride, he started talking to me about the weather, my husband and other small talk. We had about a five minute conversation. As I left, I thanked him for his help and apologized for causing all this trouble. He waited in the parking lot until I entered the building, then left. Once inside, I ran to my room, opened the door, and flopped on the bed. I was exhausted.

I picked up my car today, without an incident. It was a harrowing experience, a half hour of pure agony, something I wouldn't

ever want to do again. In retrospect, I was very lucky. Fate and God had to be on my side. But, I did my part; I kept my head and obviously "passed."

The moral of the story? Don't take unnecessary risks. It can happen to you! It happened to me.
Z

Shopping: The Next Frontier

by Heather

Reprinted from the Fiesta Chapter newsletter, December 1991.

I have been "coming out of the closet" for about six months now and have made a lot of progress in that short time. I made it through the summer with my legs shaved and no one seemed to notice. I began shaving my arms a few months ago and have attracted no comments. I even pluck my eyebrows a bit and no one has confronted me for my "perversion". Of course, there were moments when I feared everyone within a five mile radius was staring at me, but I am slowly coming to the realization that the fears are of my own design and most people couldn't care less even if they did notice.

In that same span of time I have spent a considerable amount of money on that joyous pastime for which women have become famous: shopping. Most of the clothes I have purchased have come by way of catalogs, but I have managed to browse the racks of a few stores. I have slowly dispelled the fear that I will be arrested or have my photograph displayed on the front page of the newspaper. But I have reached an impasse in which the catalog stores just aren't cutting

it anymore. Being tall, with long arms and a waist that lies in a different place than it does on most women, my next dream is to be able to walk into a store and try something on before I buy it. I cannot buy anything from a catalog with long sleeves because I know they will stop somewhere in the middle of my forearm. Pants are most likely to end somewhere well above my ankle. I long to be able to buy a blouse or a pair of slacks and know that they will actually fit before I spend the money.

Friends tell me it will come with time. They recount their first experiences when they walked into a store en femme and shopped for clothes. They tell of the times they walked down the mall or tried on a dress, and their stories help. I mentally record every detail of the accounts, making special notes of the fact that most people are too engrossed in their own business to notice anything unusual, and sales clerks rarely lose their composure or make a scene. I know there will come a day in the not too distant future when I can follow in their footsteps and realize my dream. I am progressing toward a point in my own level of confidence in which I will not care what people think.

But this is not all of my dream. I have stood in a store admiring a dress or a pair of slacks and had to catch myself from walking into a dressing room to try them on. The way I feel inside it would be a perfectly natural thing to do, but my appearance casts me into a gender role that seems to forbid such a thing. I have tried to imagine the reaction of a Wal-Mart sales clerk when a man of more than six feet, and with a deep voice, asks to to use the dressing room to try on a dress. The incongruity of it all! How would she react? Trying on women's clothes en femme is one thing, but doing it en butch would be something completely different. If I were en femme the clerk could avoid any personal involvement in the situation by falling back on the belief that the person before her really was a woman, regardless of her height or the depth of her voice. But to confront a clerk in my male role would be to force her to examine her own understanding of herself and her conception of the world.

Continued A 1

In Fiesta we profess that part of our purpose is to educate society as to the nature of crossdressing. Society takes one look at men and instantly polarizes them into a position that allows no middle ground. We

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The Femme Mirror

seek to enlighten people as to the existence and nature of our position in the broad spectrum between the black and white poles of male and female. Unfortunately, I am afraid that our task is more formidable than we imagine. It is not enough to merely seek understanding by showing that we are healthy, harmless individuals who do not rob banks or molest children. Brochures, conventions and television specials are infinitely valuable to our cause, but we must not allow ourselves to take respite in the feeling that these are sufficient. Ultimately, we will only be accepted and understood by those who accept and understand themselves. Understanding yourself means coming to the realization that the world is not monochromatic but flooded with a multitude of colors, and then accepting the fact that your place in the world is genuine regardless of your tint or hue.

Our mission, then, can be expanded on countless fronts. From the sales clerk at Wal-Mart to the optician at Eye Masters, every genuine engagement with another human being serves to dispel prejudices and preconceptions. It is the gentle persistence of the rain that can cause the greatest change to the landscape. Every encounter with another human being is an opportunity to show our colors and help them deepen their understanding of the broad spectrum of which they are a part. The net result is that we make small but constant strides toward being understood.

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Grace and Lace

by Lee Frances

The purpose of Grace and Lace is simply to present the positive that God loves us and is on our side in life, in spite of our crossdressing. His care and concern is for our souls. We, also, are His created beings, and His love is for His Creation, of which we are a part. Whether we wear skirts, pants, or nothing at all is no issue with God. The clothes humanity wears does not validate any standing before God. Faith does. Faith in skirts, faith in pants, and faith wearing nothing at all; faith is the only criterion for pleasing God.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He exists and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6 KJV)

"By faith the harlot, Rahab, perished not with them that believed not, when she received the spies with peace." (Hebrews 11:31)

Just one question: If God blessed a prostitute's faith, is there any reason why He can't bless Daisy the crossdresser's faith? At this point I could "take off" into a three-page dissertation. As you can sense, I feel very strongly on the fact of God's love for us as His created beings. I'll spare you and tell you that I love you.

As crossdressers we are all prone to feel something is standing between us and God. It is not the "sin" of crossdressing, for the simple reason that crossdressing is not a sin. What stands between us and God is the sinful nature with which we were born. Crossdressing does not add to our sinfulness. This is the universal sin we were born with, that we inherited from Adam. This is the "Adamic nature" we hear about. Our first expression of it was in babyhood when we couldn't even talk yet, but we learned what "No-No" meant. When we wanted to do something, we would not heed the "No-No" but went ahead and did it anyhow. In a word, Rebellion. If we were forcibly stopped from doing something we wanted

to do but shouldn't, we fussed and fumed, or in some cases, threw a temper tantrum. All this is a display of the Adamic (sinful) nature.

(I don't want to take time here to show how this sinful nature plagues us all of our lives. We all taste of it. Yes, even we who call ourselves Christians. May I suggest you write for the very first issue of Grace and Lace, which I sent out to over 50 Sisters two years ago. It is ten pages of articles demonstrating why crossdressing is not a sin. It will clear up a lot for you. Jaye Reviere has a devotional in it which is a classic.)

"Yes, I crossdress, BUT...." Wow-Dee-dow! Now comes the litany of "BUT"! "(BUT) I am not an immoral person; I don't lie or cheat (IRS, take note!); I am not a greedy person; I never deliberately hurt my fellow man; I am an upstanding member of my community and a credit to my employer and I am a good provider and I love my family dearly; the only fault I have is crossdressing, and that hurts no one." With all that rationalization and attempted pacification you are still uncomfortable in your relationship with God. Could it be that you are attempting to justify yourself before God on the basis of what you are not? Let's see.

There was a fellow in Jesus' time, a Pharisee, who was going into the Temple to pray. Another fellow was going in for the same purpose, but he was a tax collector. In those days tax collectors were independent contractors. The government told them how much tax revenue was expected from a given area. The tax collector kept for himself everything above the specified amount the government assigned, so he really laid it on everybody, and everybody, especially the poor, suffered under the burden. The tax collector was a hated, miserable worm and a poor excuse for a human being.

So there they go. Two men, widely divergent in philosophy and social station,

"The Pharisee took his stand ostentatiously (showy display; pretentiousness) and began to pray thus before and with himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not as the rest of men: extortioners (robbers), swindlers (unrighteous in heart and life), or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and I give tithes of all that I gain.'" (Luke 18: 11 & 12, Amplified Bible) (Pity the poor tax collector listening to all that "Holy am I" stuff.) "But the tax collector, (merely) standing at a distance, would not even lift his eyes to heaven; but kept striking his breast, saying, 'O God, be favorable (be gracious, be merciful) to me, the especially wicked sinner that I am!'"

"But I tell you, this man went down to his home justified (forgiven and made upright and in right standing with God) rather than the other man; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18: 13 & 14, Amplified Bible)

There is no sense in being Pharisee-like before God. To try to justify our crossdressing by saying, "Well, women wear pants and men's shirts and now men's boxer shorts", followed up by telling us what a good person you are: that kind of rationalization just won't fly. It's only when we realize the toll sin has taken on our lives and become aware that in no way can we make it up to God, that we can avail ourselves of the impact of the cross. God, in the person of Jesus Christ, paid the death penalty God demanded for sin. "The soul that sins shall die." (Ezekiel 18: 14) He paid for our sins. We could never pay for our sins, nor can we repay The Christ of God for what He has done for us.

In all of this I am trying to say that God takes no joy in our suffering. The satanic forces do. As long as we believe the lie that crossdressing is a cardinal sin against God is just how long we will suffer. In faith, do what the tax collector did.

(Reprinted from the Grace and Lace newsletter, published by Lee Frances, P.O. Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39286-1253. Lee welcomes your correspondence. Please write her for a free subscription to Grace and Lace. Copies of back issues are also available.)

Are You a Frequent Flyer?

If your work involves considerable travel, you may have accumulated some Frequent Flyer miles on airlines other than your "main" one. These are miles which you'll be unlikely to use yourself, since: 1) you hate flying that airline, but it was the only one that could get you to that presentation on time; 2) at the rate that airline's miles accumulate, it will be out of business before you ever save up enough to take a trip; 3) "some restrictions apply" so that you'll never be able to use the miles when you really want to.

If any or all of the above fits your situation, why not consider donating your unused (unusable) miles to help Tri-Ess? Many Tri-Ess leaders survive on very limited means, and can only travel to the Holiday En Femme, Board of Directors meetings, or speaking engagements at considerable personal sacrifice. Your donated Frequent Flyer miles can help, and here's how: Lynda Frank, long-time Tri-Ess member and Regional Coordinator for the Northeast, has offered to coordinate donated miles through her travel agency. A few unused miles from this sister here, plus some from that sister over there, can add up to enough for a deserving leader to attend a meeting she could never have afforded otherwise. So dig out your records, count up your miles, and write to Lynda today! Her address is:

L. Frank, PO Box 9192,
Morristown, NJ 07960.

The Flower in the Box

by Phyllis TX-3409-H

All of my life I was told
That a man was only strong and bold,
And it was wrong to feel, emot, and express,
A cardinal sin to wear a pretty dress.

So I believed and went along
With a notion something in me must be wrong,
Because deep in my closet I found joy
Dressing, feeling, acting like a girl, not a boy!

Always I felt so beautiful, radiant, and warm,
Gazing in the mirror at my feminine form,
As my soft, scented being was tenderly caressed
By the satins, silks, and lace in and under my dress.

My heels were high and so was I
With feelings of passion and serenity I couldn't describe.
My universe was in a state of perfect harmony.
God! how I loved looking and feeling pretty!

Then came the inevitable guilt, fear, and shame
The denial, the trauma, the pain.
"They" were right: "She" must die.
I threw her clothes away so many times...

Then one day I listened, learned, and awoke
As this tortured little girl in me spoke:
"Man is Woman and Woman is Man
For we all are from the same hand."

"So please take this key to all of your locks
And remove The Flower in the Box.
Love me, nurture me, and set me free.
Then you will be all you deserve to be."

In the end we are not feminine or masculine,
but both,
For without either there is no life, no growth.
So please have courage, strength, and take a stand.
Give life to the beautiful girl inside the man!

Friday Morning, 3AM: Part III

by Shelley Mason TX-3226-M

I just read "Friday Morning, 3AM: The Rebuttal" and would like to comment.

First off I must say that in Ellen being a genetic female she could not even begin to understand where Donna and Jennifer were coming from. Finding "the ideal woman" is not easy; finding one that is sympathetic to crossdressing even less so. They don't wear signs around their necks saying, "I LIKE CROSSDRESSERS."

Let's face it: For every 9 out of 10 relationships, revealing yourself as a crossdresser is a romance killer. Period. And that makes it all the harder for people like me. See, as I look at it, I already have several strikes against me. I usually don't fit into a woman's specifications, such as age (older), height (taller), weight (thin), occupation (anything above fast food), and demeanor (mean, possessive). Even if by some kind of miracle I overcame these things, once I get to crossdressing, I hit a brick wall.

It's so hard for us who are single. Having a family of your own is very much like the proverbial star just out of your reach. And Ellen wants you to believe it's as easy as finding a penny on the street. I wish we all could be as optimistic as she; but then again, if she could simply walk a mile in our shoes, reality would set in.

Anyway, I live life the only way I can (from day-to-day) and hope everyone is doing the same. Keep smiling!

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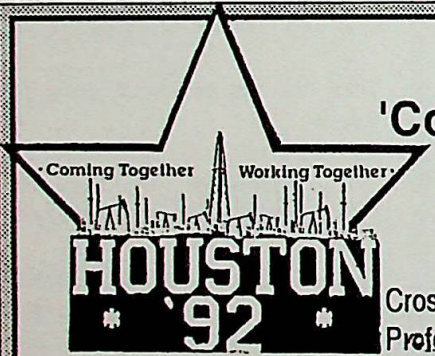
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NOTICE

From your Femme Mirror Staff:

Several sisters have requested more "How-To" articles in the Femme Mirror. Would all you lovely ladies out there consider sharing your expertise with the rest of us? It needn't be a literary masterpiece or a *radical* new approach to hair removal. Just tell us what works for you. We'll be glad to run longer contributions as articles, and perhaps the shorter ones in a "Helpful Hints" column. We can see it now... "Hints from Helen" (of Troy, that is). Tips on shopping, clothes and accessories, shoes, wigs, anything at all (well, almost anything) will be welcome and much appreciated by your sisters out there in Mirror land. Well, how about it?

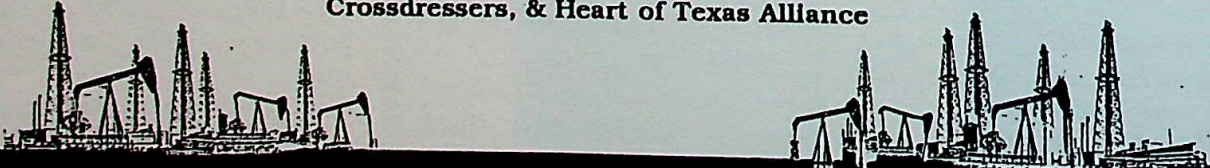


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CD DILEMMAS: A HERS OR A HIS'N?

(You think **you** have problems?)

There once was a crossdresser bandit,
Who said, "You folks don't understand it.
You think when I steal,
It's a big macho deal --
But femme problems! Dear, they've un-manned it!"

"For instance, I swipe charming dresses,
But can't try them on -- I make guesses.
So, most of them fit,
But in some I can't sit,
'Cause in funny places it presses."

"And how do you think that I'm feeling,
In gold lamé dress, when I'm stealing,
And most everyone
Sees my silver-plate gun,
With golden jewelry, ain't appealing?"

"Do you know disguising silk stocking
Stretched over my face can be shocking?
My messed-up hairdo,
And my ruined makeup too,
Can have all the bank tellers gawking!"

"And what about nail polish fading,
While I'm busy Lawmen-evading?
A manicure's out,
For there's not any doubt,
This ain't a good time for upgrading."

"Consider a jewel heist I'm trying,
And my concentration is die-ing,
'Cause my long blonde hair
Just won't stay fixed up there;
In eyes, nose, and mouth it is flying."

"One midnight, high heels made the guards know
That I was there, robbing the art show.
Floors, marble -- heels click --
They came running real quick.
Wow! Sprinting in heels is a no-no!"

"Oh, thievery and happy crossdressing
Are conflicting, dear, I'm confessing.
But this I ignore
When I knock off a store --
It keeps my ego effervescing."

"When nabbed by a cop named O'Grady,
With no "pardon me, me foine maidy,"
He just bellowed, "Freeze!"
-- Didn't even say "please" --
That ain't no way **you** treat a lady!"

But Darling! Please!
You can see I'm a bit too
-- uh -- plump-ish to wear those
horrid horizontal stripes!!!!



"He brought me, En Femme, to this prison.
The fizz in my ego's stopped fizzin'.
A strip search will tell
In what type of a cell
They'll put me -- a hers or a his'n."

Paula (WI-2507-M)

- Anyway -

People are unreasonable, illogical and self centered.
LOVE THEM ANYWAY

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.
DO GOOD ANYWAY

If you are successful you win false friends and true enemies.
SUCCEED ANYWAY

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
DO GOOD ANYWAY

Honesty and Frankness make you vulnerable.
BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY

People favor underdogs, but follow top dogs!
FIGHT FOR THE UNDERDOGS ANYWAY

People really need help but may attack you if you help them.
HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.
GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU'VE GOT

- Anyway -